



魔術師は人間だ

魔王軍最強の

羽田遼亮

illustration
KUMA

Maou Gun Saikyou no Majutsushi wa Ningen datta

by Ryoussuke Hata

[Novel Updates](#)

Translation Group: [Xiose](#)

Epub: [Trollo WN/LN EPUB](#)

Chapter 01: Prologue

——My name is Ike.

Member of the Maou 7th army corps, the and leader of the Undead Brigade.

I'm a reincarnator with the memories of my past life but they don't mean anything.

Right now the mood can't be stopped because of the changes on the battle.

"Ike-sama we can break through the castle gates"

My staff officer that I left the task to, a male Orc, told me.

"That's faster than I thought"

"Yes. As per Ike-sama's instructions, we gave the trolls destructive hammers"

"There wasn't any counter attack during the time?"

"Of course there was. Those guys threw boiling oil at us"

"... That's unfortunate"

"Huh? What?"

Nothing, I shake my head.

That was dangerous.

I'm the Maou Army's dagger that can make even crying children stop. Worrying about each and every one of my subordinates is suspicious.

Putting on an extremely praiseworthy look I say

"Take care of the severely injured. Those guys are precious soldiers of the Maou. Also when we're done destroying the castle gate, next will be getting units into formation. We're rushing in!"

"Yes! Which unit will be entering? The skeletons are untouched."

"The skeletons lack maneuverability. They're useful in defensive battle but not fit for moving battles."

“Then will it be the Kobold unit?”

“Those guys have mobility but lack intelligence.”

The Orc leaks out a sigh and asks “What do we do then?”

“Let’s see... recruit some elites from the troops. For now gather trolls, orcs, goblins and some races with intelligence.”

“I-Ike-sama it can’t be...”

“Exactly. I’ll cut through the vanguard and infiltrate the interior.”

“I-It’s too dangerous. We knocked many of them down and destroyed their gate so I’m afraid they’ll turn into cornered mice. Something like advancing alone is extremely reckless.”

“Reckless? You little... Do you know who you’re speaking to?”

I ask purposely lowering my voice to threaten him.

The Orc officer shakes in fear.

In my right hand I’m tightly holding 『Ouroboros』.

Then holding it up and chanting the spell, I fire《Sonic Boom》at a boulder.

The boulder literally gets smashed up into little pieces and scatter in all directions.

“I’m the Maou Army’s dagger you know. Do you think I’ll be defeated because I look like a human?”

The orcs face goes pales as he shakes his head.

Satisfied with that, I had an attendant bring a horse.

My personal horse is one from the underworld that can be fast even if a heavily armed troll rides.

I gallantly mount and leave the words “Don’t be slow!” as I charge towards the gate.

Right now the city I’m capturing is Asenam, a trading town located in the center of the continent.

The population is around the thousands and the city can be called a trading

town. The Maou army leaders predict that they have quite a sum of wealth saved up.

Certainly the stone paving to the feudal lord's home was splendid and the main street's trading company scale was considerable but I can't help saying what will happen to it after it's lost all its wealth?

A trade town need to trade to get wealth.

It's easy to take all the treasure but what will we do after that?

The Maou's army leaders said "If there's resistance, we don't mind if you annihilate the citizens and burn the streets."

However, if we do that this town won't be able to bring forth anything.

It will all just become ruins.

It will just become a burden that won't produce the Maou's Army a single gold coin.

The foolish leaders don't understand this.

The leaders are like this so even the Undead Brigade members will be the same.

Even if we kill of humans till exhaustion more will come forth.

What would happen if those guys broke into the town doesn't even need thinking.

Therefore my lone figure breaks into the town plaza where I see 30 heavily armed infantry waiting.

This is a failure I thought.

As expected this is too many. Even though I'm the Maou's Right hand man and a magician, as expected this is too many.

"Even for me to annihilate this many alone without killing is impossible right?"

So I thought and the result was virtually the same.

Firing《Sonic Boom》 at the lowest level and holding back, the unlucky ones will die.

Praying that this one-sided battle would quickly end, the soldiers were being eliminated.

Chapter 02: 13th Female Slave

Finishing off the soldiers in the plaza, a subordinate came running to me.

“Do not kill those who aren’t resisting. It’s a military order. Also give medical care to those who surrender.” I order and head towards the feudal lord’s home.

In front of the building are several soldiers waiting but as soon as they see my figure, they escape screaming.

What a rude bunch they are.

However, that reaction can be understood.

A skull mask, a jet black robe and a sinister cane.

A man that can be perfectly described as a monster came around covered in his victim’s blood.

It would seem that the screams they heard coming from the plaza also played a part.

They already offered the lord their loyalty till the end. Asking for more would be unreasonable.

To the lord’s home that no longer has a gatekeeper, I boldly enter.

Not as a guest. As a conqueror.

The feudal lord is waiting in the office.

He is a middle aged man with a great beard.

His entire body is covered in with a helmet and armor as he sits in the office chair with a sword and kite shield.

Even as I enter, he doesn’t show a disturbed behavior.

I saw it many times on the battlefields from afar. His commands were resolute and his actual ability was pretty good.

If he wasn’t the commander, then both sides would have taken less damage.

Looking at me, he say in a very military man tone

“I suppose you are the Maou Army’s commander.”

And I reply “Indeed.”

And I reply back with the decorum of a military man

“You have three choices left.

1. Surrender to the Maou’s Army and become a captive.
2. Suicide and end this.
3. In the time that I’m looking at the scenery outside this window you can escape.

Pick the one you like.”

I recommend the third choice but this person would probably pick the fourth choice.

In reality he slowly shook his head horizontally and seems to have chosen that option.

Taking up his long sword and shield he speaks.

“After all this fighting it would be awkward to stop now. If possible I would like to end as a warrior. I would like a duel with you the general of the Maou Army.”

Well this is what I was expecting since the beginning so it’s not even surprising.

Those guys we call nobles have lots of pride.

Disappointed, I put mana into Ouroboros.

It’s not like I don’t have the choice of holding back but doing so to such a brave man would feel rude.

Also this man is a strong warrior.

If I hold back against him, there’s a chance that I could die. I’ve already died once and I’ll pass on a second time.

I will receive his request with all my power.

We will be settling this with one hit.

I put mana into my Ouroboros and slash diagonally at his shoulder.

He tries to hit my neck by sweeping horizontally with his long sword.

Both are certain kill hits. If our strength was the same then we would both instantly kill one another. Unfortunately the difference in power becomes clear.

The power of the undead king's armor that I wear isn't something the likes of a human can oppose.

In a few seconds, he receives my hit and collapses while foaming.

He definitely has a fatal wound. At the very least his bone is broken and the damage probably reached his organs too.

For the time being, I apply healing magic to him. I ordered a subordinate to heal him so that we could make him into a prisoner.

Then I wanted to be alone for a while so I made my subordinate go back and sat in the chair the feudal lord was in earlier.

"Haaa."

I leak out a sigh.

Saying "I don't feel guilty hurting people" would be a lie.

My previous existence was a Japanese person.

I can't get used to the smell of the bloody battlefield.

"No... that's not it." I retort to myself.

I know some others who have memories of their past life but they've long since lost their human heart.

I'm an exception since I'm the only one still dragging around my previous life's mindset.

While thinking this, I suddenly notice a large mirror placed at the corner of the room.

What's reflected is a jet black robed magician who bathed in his enemies

blood.

A typical demon magician is right there.

Just—

I take off the mask of the undead king and robe.

What's there is certainly a human. Black hair and black eyes. What's reflected is not a handsome man but someone you can find anywhere.

I haven't grown a horn nor fangs.

A genuine human is right there.

That's right. I'm not a demon with memories of my past life. I'm a human with memories of my life as a Japanese.

I've managed to keep this secret to just 3 people.

One person was my dead grandfather so in reality, it became just one other person that knows this secret.

If by chance this secret was discovered, there would probably be a huge uproar.

The man called "Maou Army's dagger" is actually human.

Being tortured to death by demons or the Maou personally granting me death would be the two options I'd have.

That's why my dead grandfather told me "Listen Ike. You can't remove the mask or robe at any time." And since the time he muttered that to me I've done as he said.

That's why only when I'm definitely alone do I remove them.

I'm also extremely thorough with my subordinates. If I say "I want to become human" then even the stupidest goblin won't approach my side.

It's something that's well known around here.

The last time this order was violated, the subordinate was given a severe punishment. If I was them I definitely wouldn't come by this room.

Even if the other guys from the Maou's army come, it would be the same.

Right now there's a strong barrier affixed to this room. If they aren't my subordinate then they probably wouldn't be able to come by this room.

Therefore, just like that I was forgetting a certain something. I completely didn't take into consideration a certain possibility.

The possibility that there was someone hiding in the room since the beginning.

Not just my mask but even my robe was taken off when I noticed a sound.

I heard a bang sound from the corner of the room where there's clothes for dances.

The clothes are slightly separated.

While assuming the worst, I approach the clothes and gently separate them.

—— A girl is there.

A human girl.

Age is probably around 14-15?

Light eye's like her hair and a ceramic like body wearing maid clothes.

Probably a servant of the lord's home.

She was trembling like a newborn.

"P-please. D-don't kill me please."

Tears were accumulated at her eyes but the one who want to cry is me.

The secret I've been keeping for 20 years was easily discovered like this.

Not to mention that it's not a strong demon or a human hero but just a little girl.

"Oh shall I kill you here?"

Such a choice would have come to mind if I was a demon but unfortunately I'm human.

Killing a weaponless weak girl who hasn't even made any kind of mistake would be too much and I haven't lost my human heart.

Therefore, recovering the appearance of a monster, I tell her in a voice as low as I can make

“You didn’t see anything. Okay?”

She trembles as she thinks over my words.

She’s not stupid to the point where she doesn’t understand the meaning it seems.

However my words don’t give her any courage either.

Her body trembles as if being scolded and nods her head.

“That’s right. This is fine. The only human in this room is you. Understand?”

Was she able to regain her composure somewhat?

This time she replied in a low voice “Y-yes. The only human in this room is just me.”

I received a satisfying answer.

Just like that I might have let her go without doing anything but unfortunately I have a cautious personality.

“Well this is perfect. I’ve been wanting a human to take care of my surroundings.”

Up till now, I’ve left it to male goblin underlings. They’re good at following orders but lack intelligence and concern.

As one would expect, demons can’t give tender care like humans.

If it’s just one person then it wouldn’t be bad to have a human girl as a maid.

“From today forth, you’re my maid. Incidentally, you can’t refuse. In this world, there are no more than two people who know I’m human. Of them, there is one that definitely won’t confess. Basically, if the world finds out my secret then it can only be because of you.”

She denies with a tone stronger than before.

“I-I definitely won’t tell anybody about this. I swear on my dead mother. A promise once exchanged must be protected no matter what happens. Even if

it's with a demon."

"But I'm not a demon." I reply making a bitter smile. I do feel inclined to believe her words though.

She's a frail girl but has a strong heart.

Just like her words said, she's the type to never break a promise once it's made. Believing that, I ask for her name.

"... it's Thirteenth."

"Thirteenth? Another name?"

"... my mother's name was Second. The lord didn't have a way to name us slaves so we were called by our order."

I see. Well it's a case you often hear about in another world.

He didn't seem to be the type to treat slaves badly but on the other hand, he didn't seem like the type to be interested in them either.

It was probably too troublesome to give them names.

"But still, Thirteenth is awful. It's also hard to call out."

"... my mother called me Sati."

"Is that so? Sati huh? That's easy to say and saves me the trouble."

From today forth, I'll also be calling her Sati I conclude and order her to wait there.

I have to explain to the demon brigade about her and there's still the postwar processing to do.

Both are troublesome tasks but as a Brigade leader of the Maou's Army, they aren't things I can neglect.

Chapter 03: Postwar Processing and Forced Movement

Thus the free city Asenum fell into the hands of the Maou's Army.

Dozens of Undead Brigade members died in battle.

The number of dead on Asenum's side was around the three digits. If we look at the scale of the city, they surrendered to have the least victims.

However, the Orc officer seems a little unsatisfied.

"Our casualties are low but don't we have too few heads of the enemy general?"

"That's so that we could keep it to a minimum" is what I wanted to say but instead, I reply like this.

"That was how the previous Maou-sama was. This current Maou places more importance on results rather than the number of enemy heads. Our contributions are properly valued."

Or it should be. I have no self confidence.

Certainly, it's as the orc says. We gain contribution in the Maou's army by how many people we kill.

Like the Warring States period of Japan, bringing back the heads of enemy generals with reputation would get them a promotion.

However the current Maou, Dairokuten-sama, made a large scale reformation of the assessment method.

For example, even if we kill a human, as long as we have results, we should be valued.

If it wasn't for that then I who look human wouldn't have been selected to be a brigade leader. The theory should be true but traditional values still permeate the Maou's Army.

"Either way Asenum is a trade city. No, even an ore town or agriculture town

are the same. We finally have a city to rule and if they kill off all the residents then there's not meaning. If the residents are gone then who will trade? If you kill the dwarf, who will make silverware. If you kill the peasant, who will cultivate the fields? If the fields are gone how would one have livestock?"

"Haaa. We it certainly is true...."

Amongst the demons, some of them think that if there aren't pigs or cows, couldn't they just eat humans? As expected, they're a minority.

Few demons would choose to humans.

Demons also want to eat delicious things.

It's the same as not making a carnivorous animal's meat into food. Human meat tastes bad it seems.

Furthermore, Demons can't make handcrafts as well as humans and dwarfs.

On the contrary, we don't even have the minimum amount of skill to make things like carriages or weapons.

Everything is from captured humans who are forced to produce them.

"That's why the plan to kill the humans is a bad plan."

Saying it like that and repeatedly declaring "Don't kill non resistant townspeople", I decide to meet the town's representative.

The lord who was governing the town is currently unconscious in critical condition. The ones who could be the town's representative are the head of the merchant guild or the head of the church.

Both begin with trying to flatter me.

"Ike-sama from here on, how much tax do you think is a good amount to give to the Maou Army?" the merchant guild leader asks.

"Ike-sama hereafter do you approve of our god's faith?"

To both their questions, I answer by saying "There will be no changes with how it's been up till now."

Hearing my words, the two are relieved.

I haven't added my condition though.

"However, the Maou Army's law will take priority. We will punish everyone opposing capture and those who cooperate with them. Bear that in mind."

When I drop that order, both go silent and lower their heads and withdraw.

They withdrew more easily than I expected. Probably because the conditions were looser than they thought it was going to be.

Of course all the treasure on this street will be confiscated and freedom will be considerably limited compared to before. Far off compared to what they were expecting, it's a much more lax policy they're seeing.

Well the previous age was one where soldiers massacred and the person in charge being publically executed was normal.

The current Maou's treatment is lenient but even now there are still army corps dragging around old customs.

For example, the most cruel thing I know is the Second Army Corps leader. I've heard a story where the lord of a town he captured was executed by pouring melted iron down his mouth.

In comparison to us the Seventh Army Corps, our policy might even seem kind.

——Thinking that, the face of the leader of the Seventh Army Corps comes to mind.

Capture is complete. Occupying is done. The moment that I was thinking that I have to go and report, my body became hazy and I disappeared from there.

Chapter 04: Golem Subjugation Time Attack

I realized that I was forcibly summoned by transfer magic but by the time I noticed, I was in the center of a round arena.

“My my. It’s the work of a corps commander.”

I didn’t even need to say it.

Such bad taste and meaningless behavior is the work of a demon. I don’t know of any others that would do such things.

Showing herself, only her voice can be heard by magic.

“Ike. You do understand why you were called here right?”

“Haaa... well pretty much...”

“What’s with that vague reply? Do you really understand why?”

“But commander always gives a random reason to call me don’t you? Some time ago it was a cockroach that appeared and you called for me.”

“Fool. a cockroach appeared in you frail superior’s room. If you’re a subordinate no, if you’re a man then coming to my aid is natural. No?”

“Frail... right...”

I instantly think that if the witch that used《Meteor Strike》on Chivalric Order is frail then the dictionary would need to be rewritten.

“Then what was I summoned for? If it’s the report on occupying the town then I thought it was left up to me.”

“Yea, that’s right...”

Oh my. Right now she’s trying to think of something will all her might. She summoned me without thinking about anything. Just before I was about to retort, she seems to have found a reason or rather she just made one up.

“That’s right. Let’s make the reason why I called you because you captured the town faster than we expected.”

“Make the reason you say....”

Coming back from my surprise, I wanted to rebut that a superior should have some respect.

“By the way, I think that capturing a city of that scale with only one brigade and in merely a week is a historic achievement.”

“Fool, don’t get conceited. That’s because the other brigade leaders are confronting the enemy’s main forces that their defense gets undermanned.”

“That’s true.”

That’s the truth but I want them to value the fact that we made a fortress of that size fall in a week. No. The capture is surely being acknowledged but it seems that her reason for all this is just to tease me.

I leak out a sigh and ask her

“——So then, what kind of golem did you make this time?”

“What? You little. You knew that I made a golem?”

“You want to make me a lab rat don’t you? What kind of golem did you make this time? A classic mud one? A wooden one? Or is it copper?”

“.....”

It seems that I was about to be made to fight the golem again this time.

“This times golem is iron. However, it’s not just iron. It’s also made of damascus steel obtained from the west.”

Saying that, she opens the gate to the arena and there laid the golem.

The size of the golem took my breath away. It’s size was about 5 meters. Around the level of the giant tribe. It’s entire body is also made of metal.

Adding on to that, it’s made of damascus steel which is called the hardest steel. It’s no wonder why leader was in a good mood.

“By the way you have to exceed your subjugation time for the previous tree golem. If you don’t, there’s a punishment.”

When she said that, the golem came rushing at me.

What an astonishing speed. I can’t think of it being made from steel at all.

“... hey, is this really sprinting towards me?”

If I look under the golems feet, there are wheels installed.

A joke I said the previous time was actually used.

“Indeed. To make a big frame move, using wheels is a good idea. To have such an idea come to mind, as expected of the legendary undead king’s grandchild.”

No, although I did say it myself, to make it so quickly and somehow make it useful.

Truly a mad scientist.

Although such frank thoughts came to mind, I didn’t run my mouth.

Rather than that, I concentrate on defeating this giant.

Certainly, this giant is made of the best steel but it’s still possible to pierce it.

The reason is because my magic power is doubled many times by the undead king’s robe and the cane.

It’s possible if it’s orihalcum or mithril but what do I do if it can’t with damascus?

Rather than that, I believed in the power I got from my grandfather. I concentrate the mana in my body into the palm of my hand and transmit it into the cane. My entire body’s mana is concentrated to a single point.

I form an image of the giant lump of metal being sliced in half and like that I utter the chant for《Air Slice》.

If I fail, it’s possible that I’ll be crushed by the giant and die just like that. I didn’t think about such a possibility even a little.

The cane I’m gripping in my right hand isn’t just a cane. It’s the strongest equipment my grandfather made.

It’s a legendary weapon that’s eaten lots of humans and demons blood and flesh. It’s very existence is ominous and unearthly.

With the power of Ouroboros, as long as it has mana, even golems made by commander will be sliced.

I can't lose. Such feelings were put into my magic and released.

The result— —

My splendid victory.

The golem was magnificently bisected and its inner mechanisms were laid bare. I confirm it's magic circuits were openly exposed and ask

"Commander, how long was my subjugation time?"

"....."

After a moment of silence, an answer is returned.

"1min 54 seconds"

Hearing that answer, "... not good" is what I thought. It's the same as my previous time.

She said to exceed the previous time. Will she accept this?

As if clinging to her with my eyes, I ask for mercy.

"Hmmm. Well it's acceptable. You weren't too slow or too fast. This time there will be no punishment."

She said that and told me to come to the top of the arena and I obediently do so.

She's my direct superior and although she has a troublesome personality, she's not a hateful demon.

Also, now that my grandfather is dead, she's the only person who understands me. I'd want to build as friendly of a relationship as possible.

Chapter 05: Sefiro's Surprise

(7th army corps commander Sefiro's POV)

Sefiro's face paled when the golem was sliced in half.

The talk about exceeding his previous time from the start was just a joke. There's no way he could do it she thought.

She wanted to find someone to experiment this golem she had confidence in. Choosing the most capable out of her brigade chiefs, Ike far surpassed her assumptions.

Ike and Sefiro are old friends. She looked after him since his childhood but never in her dreams did she think he would grow to such a strong magician.

"The kid that used to hide behind his grandfather's back has become this strong"

Of course his power comes from dependence on his equipment 『Undead Robe』 and 『Cane of Ouroboros』. Even when leaving those out, it's possible to say that in the Maou's Army, he has the best ability.

Moreover, the Maou Army's strongest witch herself has taught him magic since his childhood.

To think that such a kid has grown up to this point...

"Truly a frightening kid"

If it's him then maybe he'll even surpass this Sefiro.(TLN: She addressed herself in 3rd person here)

No. It's possible that he might even become the next generation's Maou.

This was Sefiro's intuition at work as she commits it to mind. There's something unavoidable though.

It's unfortunate that Ike has such a monstrous magical power but he's human.

The height of one's strength is around 40 years. Thinking that, it's truly regrettable.

“Now there are secret arts to change people into demons but....”

If I bring up that plan, Ike surely won't acknowledge it.

To live as a human. That's the promise he exchanged with his late grandfather.

The fact that he isn't the kind of person to break that promise now is something Sefiro knows well.

Chapter 06: Invitation to the Maou Castle

My superior appears to be above the circular arena in the nobles seat. I heads towards there meet Sefiro, the witch of the black calamity. Finally reaching her, her usual effeminate face greets me.

“Yo. It’s been awhile, my best friend’s grandchild and my number one magician subordinate, Ike.”

An affable tone. I don’t mind. This person’s impression is always like this.

Since I was a child and first met her, her tone nor personality have changed.

—— Also her appearance.

Her appearance is the same as when I first met her.

Black hair running down to her back, uneven limbs and arranged looks, her age is——

(——oops)

Not good. Not good.

Counting a girls age even in my mind is improper.

Also her mana is enormous.

This mana and her perception. My thoughts aren’t being transmitted are they? Driven by such suspicions, her existence was overwhelming.

That’s why in my childhood, I swore to never tell a lie in front of her.

“By the way, commander do you want me to report on the capture?”

“Aaa. If it’s that, I know what happened from my familiar. No problems with either the capture process or the rules.”

“In that case, why was I summoned? It can’t be. It was really just for the golem experiment?”

“Was it?”

She readily replies looking forward to my reaction. But right after, she opens her mouth laughing and continues.

“It’s a joke. A Joke. I’m not the kind of with that would go that far on a whim. A certain honorable person requested to bring you. The golem was just because I had the chance.”

“—— a certain honorable person?”

Asking that, I could pretty much guess who based off the the tone of her voice.

The Maou Army ranks are easy to understand.

Maou→Corps Commander→Brigade Chief→Commanding Officer.

Below the Maou there’s also the Chief of Staff position that’s equal to Corps Commander in status. For Sefiro, a Corps Commander to call them “a certain honorable person”, there shouldn’t be anyone else.

“Exactly, the Maou, Dairokuten-sama, want to personally meet you.”

“Dairokuten-sama!?”

It goes without saying but Dairokuten is the name of the current Maou.

Several decades ago, the previous Maou was taken down. The person who ascended, became the top of the Maou Army.

“I’ve never heard of something like the Maou-sama meeting with a brigade chief though.”

“Hmm. I haven’t either. However, when there’s a subordinate that can make Asenum fall in one week, one would want to try meeting them.”

And with that, she tells me to come with her to the Maou’s castle and continuing from there, orders me to put my hand on her shoulder.

I did just as she told me to.

“What? How boring. I thought you were going to touch my breast while confused.”

“I’ve long since been done weaning.”

When I said that, the transfer magic was prepared.

When one reaches the level of her mana, there's no fear in failing the transfer or worry about sickness from the transfer.

If there's anything to be worried about, it probably that it's my first time going to the Maou's castle.

Someone of my position going to the Maou's castle is rare.

Half excited and half nervous. With those feelings, I look forward to the transfer.

Chapter 07: Maou Castle Double Berg

The Maou's Castle Double Berg is at the eastern tip of the continent.

Being built on top of a cliff, many warriors and weapons for laying siege would be necessary to capture it.

If I had to guess, it would probably take hundreds of thousands of warriors, hundreds of siege weapons and a great commander to control them all.

But that guess is just a guess.

That's because since the dawn of history, there hasn't been any human country that came to capture it.

There was a king who came close to the vicinity of the castle and succeeded in making peace, but there hasn't been a king that could exterminate demons.

"..... well if there was one, then Grandfather's death would be nonsense and I probably wouldn't be here."

If I wasn't the child of a demon, and raised as a human, I might have walked down the path of a normal human life.

Thinking that, I feel strange but that feeling quickly disappears.

A strong barrier is affixed to Double Berg. It's not possible to transfer anywhere. If unrestricted movement was possible then it would be simple to assassinate the Maou.

It was an obvious treatment but I was surprised at the strict defense.

"What's wrong? The castle miasma affecting you? You're still human and even if you're wearing the undead king's robe, it's still hard."

"No that's not it...."

During the time that I've been summoned, I've been wondering about the existence of demon magicians.

“Commander, could it be that those magicians check the humans entering the castle?”

Pointing my finger, she looks in the direction and affirms.

“Indeed. Did you think that you could meet the Maou-sama without going through any kind of check?”

I did think so.

If I was with the number 2 of the Maou army, I thought they would accommodate and let us go but it seems that they’re checking everyone.

“Not good commander. At this rate, I’m going to be found out.”

“What? You’re afraid that it’s going to be found out that you’re a coward who can’t touch a beautiful woman’s chest?”

“.... not that. They’re going to find out I’m human. If they find out that the robe and mask are just put on, they’re going to take it off.”

“You can at least take off the mask in front of others.”

“At that time I’ll cast transformation magic. If it’s a weak demon, it should be fooled. They wouldn’t think that such a high rank magician would do such a thing.”

“What just that huh. Don’t worry. If it’s your magic then it’s impossible but for me it’s simple.”

Then without even chanting, her magic envelops me.

Witches at her level don’t need to chant but her not doing it majestically makes me nervous.

The check is now at us and as expected I was made to take off my robe and mask. While my heart was pounding, the reality was reflected on a mirror. Reflected right there was a splendid demon with horns and tusks.

It would appear that somehow Sefiro’s magic was perfect.

But as expected of the Maou castle, it wasn’t just that. The magicians also directly checked.

A demon man that appeared to be in his middle ages expressionlessly checks

me. It's not like Sefiro without chanting, it's done properly with the spell.

With a tense expression, I receive the magic.

I'm afraid that Sefiro's simply cast magic will get found out.

While my heart rate was becoming erratic, I look at the middle aged demon's face.

"As expected of the one called the Maou Army's dagger. Splendid mana. I don't think this is the strength of just a brigade chief."

It appears that it isn't just checking if you're a demon but also your abilities.

"My, you're splendid Ike. If it's you, then you're probably going to become a Corps Commander someday."

Hearing those words, I felt relieved but I had one question.

"Huh? You know my name?"

"I've known you for a long time. Also I've had a small acquaintance with your grandfather."

Oh this person is an acquaintance of grandfather?

As expected of grandfather.

He was the Maou Army's great magician and won the name for himself. It hasn't been long since he died. He left behind many legends so the demons who know him are a lot.

I wanted to hear grandfather's story but it wasn't possible.

"What are you talking about? Wasting time here. We're going to Maou-sama. The current Maou is a very tolerant person but one that is tiresome when it comes to time."

Hearing her words, I lightly bow my head to the magicians and head straight to the Maou.

Chapter 08: Audience with Maou-sama

The Maou castle is oddly spacious.

As a display of power, they built it long and made meaninglessly complicated corridors reach the Maou. One theory is that the complex paths were made in preparation for a coup d'état. But being made to walk such a long corridor, I wished that my body was also just as long.

I was following Sefiro's back. She used magic and was floating as she smoothly proceeded. At times like this, I yearn for《Fly》. Although I can use it too, I can't control it like her. Other than flying high, I can't do anything.

"Commander, are we still not at the audience room?"

Asking that, a large door appears.

This is probably it. The audience room is there. Which means that this is probably where the Maou is.

As if to verify this fact, Sefiro tells me

"I'll wait here. I will talk with them first."

Saying that, she entered the room alone.

In front of the door, there are two heavily armed trolls. One of them looks at me. Sefiro's face is well known as a Corps Commander but I probably appear as someone suspicious. I have the title as the Maou Army's Dagger but it appears it's not enough.

Disregarding the glares I'm receiving from the two trolls, I imagine what kind of person is inside.

The Commander in Chief of the Maou Army.

The king of demons. The strongest demon man.

What kind of personality do they have?

According to rumors, they're cruel and ruthless. Friend or foe are killed if they're incompetent. On the other hand, if they find something in you, then

even if mana or physical strength are inferior, they will favor you. Speaking of status, it isn't considered. They evaluate purely based off ability.

In the first place, the Maou Army, no, the demons are incomparable existences now.

We have a numerical inferiority towards humans.

Gathering strong demons that can match a thousand alone, we're forced to have low numbers. It's because of a trait that demons have.

When demons are born, they lack a cooperative personality.

Also, if they think someone is weaker than them, they won't listen to their orders.

Basically what I want to say is that demons are constantly fighting amongst themselves.

With the constant internal discord repeating, humans would obviously wipe them out.

When my grandfather was still in service, the human alliance drew close to the castle but that was with a power struggle that happened.

The one who completely changed the situation was Dairokuten-sama.

To the demons who didn't know cooperation, they were trained to. With absolute power, he ruled over the demons. That's the current Maou.

"Haaa. Dairokuten-sama huh?"

Just what kind of person are you?

The more I think about it, the more my interest wells up.

Meeting a Brigade Chief human is rare.

10 minutes after I started waiting, Sefiro's call came through 《Telepathy》.

"You can enter the room"

Receiving permission, I open the door while nervous.

The audience room was larger than I imagined.

It was filled with gorgeous furnishings and articles that came from other

continents. It would appear that the rumors are true. They're a person that likes rare and new things.

After looking around the room for a brief period, I immediately look at the owner of the room. My gaze is concentrated on the throne where there's a little girl.

..... huh?

Girl?

"Umm....?"

This is probably Sefiro's prank right? Sitting on the throne is a 14-15 year old girl.

Of course they aren't human.

They've grown fangs, horns, and 12 black wings. I can immediately understand from their appearance that they are demon but it's quite different from the majestic character I imagined.

From that sweet figure, I don't get the impression of a charismatic demon at all. However, I immediately let go of the thought.

Certainly, looking at her, she looks like a pretty little girl. However, she's releasing an ominous aura that is beyond the common sense of humans, no beyond the common sense of even demons. Even now, the mana that wraps around her in waves is being released. My throat feels like it's going to crack from being filled with fear.

(..... She really is the Maou. I can't be fooled by appearances.)

The moment I understand that, I respectfully lower my head.

"Raise your face" she tells me.

"You're Sefiro's subordinate, Ike, right?"

"Yes. That's right."

Even though I say so myself, I'm a bit lacking I think while giving a model answer.

"To have taken down the impregnable town Asenam in one week."

If this was a normal demon then they would start bragging about their achievement but unfortunately I'm human. I can't act like someone who steals another's achievements.

"It was all thanks to Sefiro-sama. Also the other Brigade Chiefs attracted the enemy's main force so that we could attack when the enemy was undermanned. It's not my just achievement."

"Oh. How modest. For a demon this is rare. Are you really a demon?"

"....."

Ugh. Not good. Being modest backfired.

This place is pretty demon like. One should probably act haught here right?

Hesitating like that, Sefiro sent me a lifeboat.

"This person is Hell's Guardian, Ronberg's grandson."

"I see. Ronberg's grandson huh? No wonder he's modest."

"That person was in the Maou Army's moderate faction. Moreover, he was the most able person. You're that person's grandson. You are cautious but it's not weird."

"I see. Is it because you're Ronberg's grandson? So you didn't kill the residents, didn't punish the person in charge and Asenam fell with almost no bloodshed?"

"....."

I was lost for an answer.

She was asking me in a tone that demanded an answer.

"The current Maou evaluates based off results" is what the rumors said. But that treatment was probably false right?

If it's the Maou Army then it should be army like with at least a public execution of the one in charge right?

But as expected, being a human, I can't do it.

No even if I was a demon, It would still be the same.

Ruling with fear wouldn't last. It would result in failure.

I'll state my own opinion.

"Maou-sama is it fine if I state my own thoughts?"

She acknowledged my request by slightly tilting her chin.

"The traditional method of the army is to rule through fear. At a glance, it looks efficient but I don't think it is."

"Oh? How is it inefficient?"

"Though humans are afraid, they don't obey their fear. This is evident if you look at the past history. A town ruled by demons who killed the human leader and a town that is ruled by a human leader. If we compare the two, the difference in wealth will be obvious."

"Is this Ronberg's theory?"

"..... yes it is."

I show her my affirmation but this is my knowledge from my memories.

Between communism ruled through fear or capitalism with freedom, the end result is usually the latter emerging victorious.

Also the dictatorships that are still around all have low productivity. Looking at them, you can tell that ruling through fear isn't good.

If it's this person then they should also understand.

Before the conversation even started, I already had a feeling about something.

"This person is probably the same as me. They're a reincarnator."

This person reformed the Maou Army. The wisdom, charisma and the way of thinking. I also, no, if you're a japanese, then anyone would recall a certain person.

She calls herself "Dairokuten Maou"

To the people of this world, it's some unknown words but changed into japanese, it's "Demonlord of the Sixth Heaven".

If anyone knows a bit a history, this name would probably immediately come to mind.

Also she said “Ufu” to what I said. A certain person’s last government service was as the Right Minister and became called “Ufu”. This person left a tremendous influence on Japanese history marked the end of the Sengoku period.(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fujiwara_no_Sanesuke) Although she could be a cruel heartless person, I don’t think she is.

Though she’s strict, she’s logical and doesn’t do pointless slaughter.

If she’s the kind of person I think she will agree that my idea is correct.

Thinking that, I let out my theory and it would seem that my bet is probably a success.

Since a while ago, her eyes have been fixed upon me.

If I’m wrong then I would probably be executed like this.

Reflexively thinking that, cold sweat gathers.

“Is that so? It would seem that you are promising. ”

She’s pleased and tells me to pick my reward.

At the unexpected words, I blankly stare in puzzlement.

Towards the petrified me, Sefiro tells me to express my gratitude.

“I’m grateful.”

Once again, I give a dull reply and the Maou lightly nods.

“Be devoted” she says and leaves the audience room.

For a while, I see her off while standing still.

Chapter 09: I became the Feudal Lord but there's no Rampart

"Haaaa— I didn't feel alive." Those were my frank thoughts after the audience with the Maou.

"What's with that Ike? It's not your character. Were you nervous?"

"Out of character you say. I'm like this. You should know that."

"Unfortunately, with your mask on I can't confirm your expression."

"I was sweating a lot you know."

"Then when you return to your post, you can take a bath. If you wash away your sweat, your mood will also calm down."

"Post?" I ask reflexively.

"What? You didn't hear what Maou-sama said earlier?"

"No, I did. She said the reward was about 1000 gold coins."

"Fool. She wouldn't just give you such a large amount of money. That was money for the town's feudal lord and it includes military funds."

"Town's feudal lord? Me?"

"It's not that strange. The one who contributed most to Asenam's fall was you. Promoting you to a feudal lord is obvious."

"Is that so. But to suddenly become a feudal lord. Not to mention that it's one of a large city like Asenam. Can I do it?"

I have piled up experience with battle and war but I've never done anything related to politics or domestic affairs. This also includes the area from my grandfather. I've received education but studying and actually doing it are very different.

"No, your new post isn't at Asenam." She say broadly grinning.

"Usually, for us demons, we say 'Steal immediately.' The city you guys have

snatched away will be managed by you guys. But Asenam is an important point. It will be presented to and managed by Maou-sama.”

I think that’s a wise decision. From now on, that city will become a key point to the Maou Army.

Nobunaga... no. If it’s Maou-sama then she will certainly be able to manage it and make it give a lot of wealth to the Maou army. And with it being a stronghold in the center of the continent, it will surely become a central pillar to strategies.(TLN: [Cause we all love our genderbent Nobu](#))

For now, I felt relieved that I wasn’t being made to rule a large town. However, as if ridiculing me, she informs me of my new post.

“Ike your new post is to the south of Asenam. A town called Evaris.”

“Evaris is it? I haven’t really heard of this town.”

“That’s because it’s a small town. Your mission is to protect the town and double the revenue. That’s your current objective.”

“Double.....? In the middle of the war? Not to mention a town on the frontlines?”

“What? Unsatisfied? If you want then we can make it triple instead.”

Although I’m discontent, in the Maou Army, a superior’s orders are absolute.

With a face that say “I’ll do it. If I do it, it’ll be fine right?” I return to my subordinates waiting in Asenam.

Beginning for the trip to Evaris is my Undead Brigade.

We’re about 300 warriors composed of orcs, goblins, trolls, and skeletons. A typical Maou army brigade.

Normally in the Maou Army, you would be grouped with your species. Vampires with vampires. Werewolves with werewolves. But the undead brigade was not organized around undead races.

In the first place, I their leader am a human.

Also, although they expect this of high grade undead, my body hasn’t rotted and nor have my meat or skin fallen off. In the first place if it was like that, more

so than magic against ghosts, attack magic would be better. The main force has a skeleton unit received from Sefiro. However, because my appearance is that of an undead king, my group became called undead brigade.

If I was a Corps Commander like Sefiro who no longer needs undead races, then If possible I would at least like a demon with intelligence assigned to me.

We're going to Evaris but first we have to greet the former lord. A middle aged noble.

Unarmed and completely submissive to demons, his name is Edward. He greets us as the new rulers prostrating. He came to try and flatter me but I ignore him and immediately give orders.

"First I want to repair the ramparts."

Repairing the gates destroyed during Evaris's capture is an urgent task.

Next is the assignment from Sefiro to defend the town and double the revenue.

The latter is fine for now but the former is a pressing matter.

I inspect the gates.

"Yea it's been splendidly destroyed."

Certainly this town should be one that Sefiro personally took command of to capture.

".....because she doesn't restrain herself. She doesn't think about things like after the battle."

Although after the war, she doesn't commit slaughter, the idea to repair the gates don't come to her mind.

With《Meteor Strike》,the highest class spell she has, she struck the gates.

No it would be fine if it was just the gates.

The force of the magic extends farther and I let out a sigh at the sight.

The orc officer Jiron also lets out a sigh. Looks like we're in agreement on this.

"Ike-sama this will take half a year to repair won't it....."

“If it takes longer than half a year, humans will invade.”

“That’s true. Then thinking about it another way, should we just leave it as it is? If we get attacked during the time we repair it we’ll be at a total loss.”

Certainly, there’s also that thought. But the Maou army’s advance would probably affect here.

There are two reasons.

The first is to develop a supply line away from the home country.

The second is the human resistance has become more tenacious.

Currently, our Maou army is invading the county of Rosaria. Half of the land has already been taken over but as the above mentioned reason, the speed of our advance has been slowed.

The closer we get to the royal capital, the more intense the resistance gets. It appears that the kingdom of Rosaria has made an alliance with various rulers. The kingdoms neighboring Rosaria have been successively sending reinforcements.

It’s something demons won’t get but to the ones called human, they will struggle together in a crisis.

They’re living beings that combine their power and attack.

The surrounding kingdoms could abandon Rosaria.

After all, it’s someone else’s problem so it can be ignored.

But what about after that?

After Rosaria falls, next is themselves.

Of course they would guess that and extend a helping hand.

That’s different from the demons that are always fighting.

——My opinion is that the Maou army should stop here for now.

Basically here would become the foremost line in the battle with humans.

Thinking that, the option of not repairing the gates was impossible.

I order the Jiron “Begin repairing the gates. Gather labourers and engineers.”

“Understood.” He replies and goes obeys my order.

“Then we’ll get them from the town” he says in an extremely normal manner. That’s not good.

“No. That’s no good. It’s inefficient.”

“Huh? You mean for us to work and sweat?”

“The trolls with strength will at least help with transporting stones. Just that, well, we’re not their servants. We’re rulers.”

There’s no point in forcing humans to work.

Though it keeps repeating, there’s no more inefficient ruling method than fear.

Till the very end, if humans or demons aren’t doing the work voluntarily, they won’t be able to exhibit their abilities.

“First recruit the townspeople that willingly volunteer to cooperate. Promise to properly pay them. If you feel like it you can use my name, no Maou-sama’s name to swear on and write on a board.”

“.....haaa”

Blankly looking at me Jiron says

“We can probably get half of the labourers and engineers. The portion that we can’t get will be hired from residents. People who fail to work will definitely come.”

I add on that he has to say the part about the reward.

“I said this earlier but later get guys from the brigade with strength. I’ll let the trolls work.”

Trolls are large scale battle demons.

Their intelligence is about the same as an 8 year old but to compare their strength with the modern age then it’s comparable to a dump truck.

“When you’ve gathered the labourers and engineers, make a 24 hour work system.”

“A 24 hour system!?” Jiron asks with his eyes wide open.

“B-but Ike-sama. Like you said humans are an important workforce. No one would want to work under such conditions.”

“Fool. We’re only making them work for 8 hours. They can’t be made to work any more than that.”

“Ha? Just for 8 hours? Didn’t you say to create a 24 hour system?”

“We’ll make shifts.”

“Shifts?”

It seems Jiron doesn’t understand. Well that’s natural.

The demons wouldn’t of course but the humans also wouldn’t understand this way of thinking. Normally, the people of this world wake with the rising sun and return home as it sets.

The demons have the opposite pattern. But in an age without illumination being developed, this way of living is natural.

However, we need to urgently repair the gates.

Therefore we making a 24 hour system is indispensable.

A larger group than normal was gathered and split into 20 groups to alternate in order.

But their work time in 1 day is 8 hours.

I don’t want the Maou army turning into some shady company. Overtime is not allowed and we properly give days off. There are also arrangements to compensate for any injuries during the work.

Using this method, the repairs of the gates should speed up by 3 times.

More labourers than normal are necessary and at night, there needs to be a large amount of fire. At this time, I wasn’t going to be stingy.

I also have the gold from Maou-sama.

There’s no problem with having a large feast either.

That fact is conveyed to Jiron who still has a blank look.

He's a fool but he's not stupid.

It doesn't seem like he understands my intentions but he still faithfully carries out my instructions.

"Understood" he says and respectfully lowers his head. The preparations have begun.

Chapter 10: Orc Officer Jiron's Point of View

(Orc Chief of Staff, Jiron's, POV)

Really just what in the world is our master Ike thinking?

Shifts?

What's that?

Giving humans rewards?

What's up with that?

I haven't heard of such a precedent.

Normally humans caught by the army are slaves.

Things like rewards weren't given.

They were granted the bare minimum amount of food and whipped into working. This is common sense.

In my grandfather's grandfather's time, this was how we ruled humans.

We're changing after all this time? Don't be a fool.

That's what I wanted to say but didn't.

For demons, we never go against demons superior to ourselves.

That's a iron clad rule. But even more than that, is the respect I have for master Ike.

Assigned under master for 3 years, I at first thought that I was assigned under a greenhorn but now I have complete faith in him.

Well of course it would turn out like this.

Since master formed this Undead Brigade, the military gains have been remarkable.

5 fortresses have fallen and two towns have been captured.

Even on the battlefield, he was called the Maou Army's Dagger for defeating many forces.

If he piles up war merits at this rate, he would probably become a Corps Commander.

If that happens, then I'll become the staff officer of a Corps Commander. Such is my dream. But I think that in the near future, that dream will be granted.

That's because the repairing of the gates this time was solved in only one month. But it's not just his physical strength but his intelligence too.

I want to take a peek once. Surely there's a lot more brains packed in there than someone like me.

Never would I have thought of such a method even in my dreams.

Shifts? Even now I don't really understand it but then after that, Master proposed a reward system and then I got it.

Ah, this person is a genius.

Master hired labourers and engineers and then split them into 20 groups. Then he has them work regardless of day or night but in turns.

Even though such a technique is outside of my imagination, master then adds a reward system to boost their motivation.

The reward system is that.

Simply put, it's dangling the carrot in front of them.

In a week, the group that worked the most will get paid a bonus. It's an extremely simple system but the effects are immediate.

If the group can enter into the top 3 rankings then their wages are increased so each group is frantically working.

The result is that the time to repair the gates was sped up 6-fold.

If the humans were to invade, they would be surprised.

"I-impossible. The Maou army can repair a fortress overnight?" they would say.

Actually the scouts coming should be surprised to see the state of the outer walls after one month.

Well at any rate, this times case really amazed me.

This incident fills me with confidence that this person will definitely become a Corps Commander.

This isn't stupid but maybe this person will become the next "Maou-sama".

Asserting that much, master's operations are amazing.

I definitely won't leave from under master.

Following this person will promise promotions.

Parting from him would leave one at a loss.

My head doesn't work that well but I definitely believe this.

Chapter 11: Ike's Farming Experiment

Inside Evaris' feudal lords office — —

The population in the town Evaris is not high. It's an agricultural town that has fertile lands outside. They mainly produce wheat and the surplus gets shipped to Asenam. This made up most of the town's finances.

Basically in order to double the town's revenue, I need to double the amount being sent to Asenam. This might be quick.

"How's this place's black tea?"

"I-i'm sorry. Did I put it in wrong?" she asks me while panicking.

Is it because she was made to work as a slave in the feudal lord's home? This girl immediately misconstrues my words. She seems to be extremely afraid of harming her master's mood.

Of course far from treating her badly, I don't even rebuke her.

"You're wrong. That's not what I mean. Does it taste good or does it taste bad is what I'm asking."

"Haa. I'm sorry. I don't know."

She says with an apologetic face.

"It's not like I want the opinion of an expert. I just want to hear your impression. Anything is fine. I want advice."

"But I've never had black tea before... so I can't really talk about how it tastes..."

"Seriously?"

How honest to a fault girl she is.

Normally when the master isn't home, the maids swiping things is normal.

In the time that the master is gone, stealing tea leaves, pouring large amounts of sugar and enjoying the scent and thrill is normal. Also stealing bacon and sausages and having those while drinking brandy. There should also at least be

funny stories about how some of the maids are better than their master.

But it's probably taboo for her. Was her previous master too strict or was it just natural from birth?

If I had to say, it's probably the latter but none of this matters. I recommend the black tea.

"It's already partially drunk but drink this."

She takes the teacup but hesitates to try it.

Blushing, she say in a low voice "..... It's a indirect kiss." and after a while of hesitation, she brings it to her mouth.

"It was delicious" she says showing a smile.

I was charmed by her smile but it seems she didn't have an answer to my question.

Her impression was just one word. "Sweet."

She's probably never eaten sweets. Just a drink with two spoons of sugar and it seems out of this world.If I gave her one without the sugar, she would say "Bitter." Since she doesn't have anything to compare it to, asking for her impression was pointless. I should consider improving her eating habits from now on.

However, I also don't understand the what's good or bad about black tea.

Although I know Evaris produces it I only know to that level.

Between the demons and the various countries, brands with reputation aren't valued so I wouldn't expect mass producing this to up our revenue.

If it's like that then what's left is the Four Crop Rotation method.(TLN:Says Norfolk in furigana but Four Crop Rotation in kanji. For anyone interested this is what they're talking about.

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Norfolk-four-course-system>

)

Originating from Europe, this agricultural method is very efficient.

In this world, the two fields agriculture is common. By the way two fields is alternating the grown crops so that the fields don't lose nutrients.

This world is developing it's poor magic so agricultural techniques probably didn't get developed. In such a world, it might be possible to double the revenue if I bring in the Four Crop Rotation method.

"Four Crop Rotation method?" Sati asked back with a questioning face.

"Ahh. I accidentally said that. It's something I thought about for a new farming method. This world's method of farming is to let the land rest after harvesting the wheat. Let domesticated animal have grass and get meat from the animals right?"

"Yes that's right."

"But if you do that then you'll have to let the farm land rest for a long time. So if you stop that way and make grow them in order of barley → clover → wheat → turnip, you can give the land a shorter break. By the way the clover isn't for humans to eat. It's for domesticated animals."

"What? Such a thing is possible?"

"In theory."

If the soil and crops here are the same as my previous world's then it'll work.

But there's worth in trying it. I immediately order them to introduce the system to one part of the area.

Normally to confirm the effectiveness of this method, it would take at least a few years but this is a world with magic. If it's just an experimental farm, the growth can be accelerated by magic and we can confirm the effects. Hearing talk about the experiment, Sati wears a face that says "I'm looking forward to it." What she's looking forward to is probably being able to eat turnip soup everyday. My my what a simple mind. But I don't dislike that way of thinking.

Since I've become the new lord of this town, I want to distribute a satisfactory amount of bread and meat to the residents.

Chapter 12: A Lewd Demon Succubus

When I returned to Ivalice as if he had been awaiting my return the staff officer Jiron came along while rubbing his hands and the adjutant Lilith came to protest angrily.

“Ike-sama, is it true that you left this me behind, and proceed towards the enemies base?”

“It’s true?”

Since I didn’t feel the need to conceal it particularly, I honestly explained.

When I did so, she arched her well formed eyebrow.

“Why, did you do that sort of dangerous action. What would I do if something happened to you.”

“It was just scouting, don’t think about so seriously.”

“Even so, Ike-sama is this Undead brigade’s leader, no, even more than that, the Maou Army’s dagger. If something happened, this Maou Army’s loss would be immeasurable.”

Moreover, she emphasized and continued.

“Ike-sama is the person I’ve decided to give this me’s virginity, if that person were to die, then this Lilith will become the laughingstock of the world as a Lilin demon that finished her life remaining a virgin her entire life.”

That again huh, I leaked a wry smile.

She, the Undead Brigade’s Vice Leader Lilith is a Lilin Race Demon, in other words a Succubus.

Ever since the brigade’s formation she’s worked for me, and her power is outstanding even in the brigade.

However, the problem is, it seems like she’s fallen in love with me.

Usual succubus when they reach adult age, regardless of whether they’re human, demon, animal; they take vitality from men and take it as their own magic power. However, despite having reached adult age she stubbornly

refuses that, even now it seems she gets nourishment by absorbing energy from flowers.

I'm told,
"What's wrong with a Lilin not being a bitch!"
or such.

It seems that she wants to give that virginity to me no matter what.

Incidentally, since she thinks I'm an Undead race,

"Like this, that wish won't ever come true. I wonder if there's no method to have Ike-sama somehow regain life.

Is her pet saying.

She's the number one candidate that my true colors can't be revealed to.

Succubus girls are without exception beautiful, without exception intense.

To say nothing of a girl that holds down that instinct, and refuses to steal energy from other men.

If my true colors were exposed, then I would surely become a mummy in a flash.

Thinking as such, I don't want to mobilize together as much as possible. This time I excluded her from my fellow travelers, but it seems she's angry at that.

In order to appease her, I somehow think of a suitable reason.

"Lilith, if I brought you along, then no matter how much I deceived with my magic, your true form may be exposed to the humans. Since it's difficult to conceal your beauty even with magic you see. That's why I took Sati with me this time."

Umu, even if I say so myself, it's a good excuse.

Jii-chan too, first of all you should compliment woman, was his pet saying.

There's no woman that hates to be called beautiful, is what he said, but it should be common sense no matter what world.

However, even then Lilith didn't cheer up.
No, on the contrary it made it worse.

It seems like the term “Sati”, touched her pride.

“Ike-sama, even though it’s not ok for me, that woman is fine?”

“She’s human though?”

“However, she’s a beautiful woman isn’t she. Of course, she’s several levels behind me, but even so I think she’ll stand out won’t she.”

She turns her line of sight to Sati.

I make a troubled looking face.

Well that’s natural.

Being told such provocative words by a demon girl, it’s about this timid girl. I can’t even object.

However, surprisingly Sati grasped the sleeve of my robe tightly, and as if mustering her courage she spoke.

“With all due respect, if it’s fighting then Lilith flourishes, and is someone who is useful to Ike-sama, but in everyday life, particularly shopping, housework, *etc.* I think I’m many times better.”

The moment she heard those words,

Lilith,

“What did you say.”,

made that kind of expression,

Sati,

“I-I won’t lose.”,

made that kind of expression.

Truly a women’s fight, that kind of thing.

Being in between that work and a hard place was, in some ways, more severe than standing in a battlefield.

Like asking for help I turned towards Jiron’s direction but,

“Please don’t drag me in, Boss.”

He whispered in a small voice.

That whether you’re demon or human, resolving a woman’s quarrel is, even

for the world's best sage, impossible; seems to be Jiron's pet theory.

Certainly, he's striking the truth of things.

Usually he's of no use, but occasionally strangely striking the heart of the matter, this small man of an orc surprises me.

And though extremely rare, he'll throw out an unexpected lifeboat.

"By the way, what is that bag you're holding under your arm?"

With pointing that out, I remembered the initial objective.

The face of the merchant from whom I bought what's inside this bag, and the information I was informed of as well.

I remembered my duty as the Undead Brigade's leader, made steady expression and voice and spoke.

"Sati and Lilith. Stop that pointless fight."

I wonder, was a voice with dignity effective.

The two immediately stopped fighting.

——At least on the surface.

When I ascertained that, I turned around to the direction of the staff officer Jiron.

"It seems like, soon, Rosaria's armed forces will come to attack."

Jiron who heard those words vacantly opened his mouth, Lilith regained a stern expression, Sati made an expression like she was surprised.

It was interesting that each of the three of them demonstrated distinct reactions, but in any case, we have to prepare for the humans invasion.

Chapter 13: Ivalice Defensive Battle

Rosaria's armed force, the White Rose Knights would come to attack on the dawn of the next day.

We who knew of that beforehand took out bow and arrows from the armory, and carefully piled on preparations.

The arms were first class goods sent from a rear city. There are also goods that contain the mark of a reputable Dwarf workshop.

Proof that Maou-sama's capture policy is going well.

In the case of the previous Maou army, there wasn't the sort of concepts of supply lines, let alone arms even food wasn't supplied.

In other words, everything was procured locally. Naturally, the humans under military occupation would furiously protest. In order to hold that down, the demons would suppress uprisings. Humans would revolt even more.

As a result there were mass outbreaks of refugees, and the residents' revolts occurred frequently.

When doing those kinds of actions in the back, the combat force fighting in front were too busy to fight.

In terms of numbers, rather than demons(excluding orcs, goblins, etc.) humans were overwhelmingly many.

When they were pressed from both behind and in front by the enemy, even being the Maou army containing demons that could match a thousand, they were helpless.

"However, the current occupation policy is going sufficiently well. It won't become the same thing will it?"

Was Jiron's remark.

I gave a dignified response, "Of course", but in my mind I was anxious.

Certainly Maou-sama's occupation policy is currently going well.

The city of Ivalice that I'm in charge of as well, for the time being not a single uprising has occurred.

However, if I were asked if it would extend to the future, I couldn't say yes.

As for why, it's because I understand the humans' feelings as well.

As expected, for demons to be loitering inside the city isn't something that feels good.

Orcs are unattractive like pigs.

The goblins' eerily shining eyes and green skin give one uneasy feelings.

The trolls' size frighten people.

In actual fact those are great misunderstandings.

Certainly orcs are unattractive, but if you look closely they have charm, and just like actual pigs they're monsters that like to keep things clean. Also it's often said in common sayings that orcs would kidnap human woman, ravish them, and would borrow their stomachs and increase their descendants, but that's completely misinformation.

In the first place, Jiron has: 3 wives, and 12 children as well.

Besides although the goblins' appearance for sure is eerie, if you tried talking to them then, there's a lot that are considerably good natured. There's a lot of guys that their intellect for sure is lacking, but if you drink sake together then they'll show you a merry dance, *etc.*

However, humans don't know that.

On the other side, the monsters as well look at the humans with similar eyes.

Watching each other with a narrow view is the current situation.

If a trifling incident occurred, then it would snowball, and it's possible that the residents of the cities under military occupation revolting would occur as well.

"For example, if we were to lose this battle."

Or something like that——.

I monologued.

"It's a story that's plenty possible."

At present, I've imposed the same taxes as the time the human lord was ruling, but that the person sitting in the lord's seat be a human rather than a demon would be better is certain.

Supposing, we were to lose this time's battle, then without even being able to hole up, we would surely be forced to retreat just like that.

——If we were to lose, that is, but.

Unfortunately, the person ruling this city on top of being bad at giving up, hates to lose.

When I looked down on the White Rose Knights approaching close at hands from the ramparts, the heavily equipped orc party struck them from the front.

Their whole body covered in full plate armor, equipped with large shields as well, and holding long spears.

The so-called phalanx, that thing.

The tactic Alexander the Great utilized in Ancient Greece.

The advantage of this strategy is, close formation, and allows ally shields to protect other allies.

When morale falls, it defends against soldiers fleeing.

As such.

However, for this battle formation elaborate training is necessary.

If there's even a single coward, then this battle formation will crumble.

"The fruits of habitual training have appeared, right."

Like that the orc staff officer Jiron's face slackened.

"A result beyond imagination."

I answered.

"Usually, against a single knight 5 orcs are a good match, is a rough estimation after all."

"That's right."

Unfortunately, the monsters known as orcs are weak.

They're often treated as weak fry characters within novels, but that's the

same even in this world.

In the case of a normal knight, they'll coolly challenge about five alone.

Since they're fighting on par with that with the same numbers, it can be said that the effect of this battle formation is understood.

I once again express my respect to the originator of this battle formation, and subsequently ordered the goblin archers to fire their bows.

The bows that shot from above the ramparts drew parabolas, and rained incessantly on the knights.

“Guwaah!”

The screams of the knights that shouldn't be heard, seemed to be heard all the way here.

I'm sure they didn't think that they would be unexpectedly shot by bows from above the fortress.

Of course, there are monsters that use bows in the Maou army, but surely my unit is the first to organize and manage that right.

In addition to that, making goblins into archers, etc., humans naturally, demons, no, even the goblins in question surely didn't think of that.

In the first place, handling bows is surprisingly difficult.

No, it's more than surprisingly, it's an absurdly high difficulty.

Swinging swords, thrusting spears.

Even monkeys can do that, but to handle bows sophisticated training is necessary.

In actuality, even Japan during the warring states period, more than the handling of swords and spears, learning the way to handle bows and horses was the samurai's foundation. During the middle ages, the longbow archers of England, that wielded great power, as well, weren't just conscripted farmers, they were a specialized unit that conducted bow training.

When I was entrusted with the Undead Brigade, the first thing I carried out was the organization of the archer unit.

In any case though they're clumsy, as a consequence of being clumsy, the goblins that could focus on a single thing were just right for the archer unit, is what I thought.

.....Well, though it could also be said that they're simple.

Be that as it may, my strategy for the time being was a complete success.

The heavy infantry orcs that were more formidable than expected.

The goblin archer unit that shouldn't exist as an organization.

The White Rose Knights elites that repeatedly trained would no doubt be surprised.

Without overlooking when they became agitated, and without a moments delay I put in my secret weapon.

The demon elite led by the succubus Lilith, I put in the magic swordsman unit.

Usually, demons are stronger than knights that are trained.

By birth they hold tough bodies and powerful magic power.

This one on the contrary, to defeat one demon, 10 proficient knights would be required wouldn't they.

To such a great extent are demons strong.

However, superior demon's numbers are limited.

And everyone's pride is strong, so they're treatment needs great care.

(——But then, that Lilith is deeply in love with me, so I have no worries on such matters, but.)

In addition there's no room to doubt her ability.

Lilith,

"As the Undead Brigade's foremost magic swordswoman, and Ike-sama's future wife, watch Lilith's true strength humans."

Like that, while raising loud laughter, she tears to pieces the knights' battle formation.

Due to her performance, the White Rose Knights' battle formation is split in half, and falls into disorder.

A figure that appears to be the enemies commander,
“Eei, at this rate it’s dangerous, for a moment, let’s withdraw.”

Like that, seemed to give their subordinates an order.

A figure that appeared to be the leader clad in pure white armor fought hard til the end, and while making a path for their subordinates to withdraw, fell back.

“An excellent personage.”

Usually, holding their life precious and running away before anyone else, they themselves remain on the battlefield until the end, excersing command. It’s not a behavior that’s readily possible for an ordinary person.

“It’s a general with backbone, right.”

It seems Jiron noticed that as well.

“Ahh, surprisingly there are lots of losers within those nobles. There’s not someone who could easily do that.”

“There’s not that kind of type even in demons correct. Everyone, puts themselves first and escapes. Usually.No, well, though Ike-sama is different.”

“No, flattery is unneeded. In addition, I’m also the type to run away first I guess. If the commanding officer dies, then the person to command the units will disappear. As a result, even more soldiers will die.”

“So that means, that commanding officer is incompetent, correct.”

“That’s what it becomes.”

However——, I continued.

“Consequently, it seems that saved that person’s life.”

When I said that, I invoked a magic’s aria.

“Resurrect! Puppet soldiers that have lingering regrets in this world!”

In truth it’s more complex, cumbersome, and difficult to understand kind of pronounced language, but converted to Japanese it’s this kind of feeling I guess.

Nevertheless, the meaning is completely the same.

The moment I recited that incantation, from the sandy soil behind the retreating enemies, bone arms jumped out above ground. Next, a human skull showed its form.

“T-that’s!?”

Hawk•Eye

He saw that sight with 《Distant View》 magic surely. Jiron seemed surprised.

I gave him an explanation.

“Since that area is made of sandy soil, beforehand skeleton soldiers were buried.”

With a cue they’re made to resurrect, catch the enemy in a pincer attack, and annihilate the enemy.

That was the strategy I thought up.

The enemy soldiers would surely be surprised.

Since I adopted tactics that would be absolutely impossible with humankind battles.

On top of overwhelming them plenty, that sort of strange maneuver should have been intolerable. While they were enemy soldiers I couldn’t help feeling sympathy, but I’ve also been entrusted with my comrades’ lives. I can’t go easy on them or such.

That clever strategy became the decisive blow I’m sure.

The White Rose Knights that lost their fighting spirit, could no longer even make a battle formation, they scattered and vanished.

In other words, I triumphed in the defensive battle.
It is also an overwhelming form.

Chapter 14: Knight Leader Alistair's Bewilderment

(White Rose Knights Leader Alistair Point of View)

An astonishing situation occurred.

The White Rose Knights Leader Alistair was bewildered.

The first thing they were surprised about was, that the fortress' rampart was restored.

Of course, they received that information from the scout, but by no means did they think that it had been magnificently restored that far.

At best it will be a hastily made cheap structure, they made light of it as a stopgap measure, but it was not so.

A gate exactly the same as the previous one was standing there.

No, Alistair shook their head.

"It's not on the level of being the same. That's something above that."

Alistair in their childhood had been brought by their father and visited Ivalice, but it wasn't that kind of set up.

Ivalice was from the start an agriculture city. Tentatively, ramparts were created, but they a simple sort, they weren't made to be able to deploy archers in mass.

The leader of the troops staying in that city accomplished that in just 1 month, moreover, strengthened them more than before, is what it amounts to.

"Just how, how many dwarf architects do you need to hire for that to be possible?"

No, Alistair shook their head again.

"There's no way that's possible."

Meaning——.

Dwarf craftsman are remarkably stubborn.

There's no way they would gracefully accept the domination of the Maou

army, and even if they're coercively ordered, by no means will they work.

They aren't a race that would follow a party that would even distort their pride.

"Then just how did they.....?"

It was Alistair who graduated the royal military academy as top student, but they couldn't think of that method at all.

"Was it a deed done by one holding some magic power that surpasses human intellect....."

They weren't able to think of it any other way, no, they didn't want to consider it might be Alistair's true thoughts.

That they lost to the demons holding "Magic Power" beyond human intellect, if they didn't convince themselves of that, then that pride seemed like it would be torn to shreds.

The magnificent management of the heavy infantry orcs.
The practical use of the organized archers.

Partway through, the succubus' forcibly tearing to pieces the battle formation was itself the traditional Maou army's method, but other than that, Alistair's common sense, no, it was something that overturned all of human common sense.

In particular the application of the skeleton soldiers at the end, it was not an act thought up by an ordinary person.

"I lost to an absurd person didn't I?"

The more they thought, they arrived at that kind of conclusion.

Of course, in front of their subordinates they couldn't make that kind of remark.

Even if it was the truth, in front of their subordinates,

"The opponent we fought was a monster beyond human intellect. Next time we win."

Or such, is not something they could say.

Just——.

How ought they report to His Majesty the King they wondered.

Of course, they'll take responsibility for the loss, they've resolved themselves even for resignation, but should they speak of the truth as it is to His Majesty the King.

“.....”

They were lost in thought.

For the sake of the kingdom from now on, no, for the sake of all humanity they should probably explain like that, but how should they explain?

“The enemy brigade safeguarding Ivalice simply cannot be matched with a single chivalric order. Even at minimum 5 chivalric orders are necessary.”

Is what Alistair thinks.

If they spoke honestly, will they be cursed at as a “Coward”?
Or else possibly disparaged as “Incompetent”.

However, even so Alistair planned to offer a full report to the king.

Far from resignation, dismissal, no, if unlucky then they might be imprisoned, but that's something that can't be helped either.

If they permit free action to that brigade, then it will certainly become humanity's calamity.

That alone they wanted to defend against by all means.

Chapter 15: A Complete Victory! However...

“Goshujin-sama, what is the matter?”

Sati the maid suddenly asked.

“.....n? Did I make an expression like I was troubled?”

Since Sati was employed at my side, when I relaxed I would take off my mask and robe, but right now I wore the mask and robe and had a grotesque appearance.

Therefore, there’s no way she should be able to do something like perceive something from my expression but.....

“Recently, with Goshujin-sama’s slight gestures or movements I’ve become able to understand what Goshujin-sama is thinking.”

“.....In a certain sense that’s scary huh, that thing called woman’s intuition is.”

Like this the woman of the world will surely see through men’s cheating from men’s poor lies, right.

“I heard that Goshujin-sama had splendidly driven away the enemy from Jiron-san but.”

“Ahh, well, certainly that’s true.”

“What’s more the I’ve heard the enemy, the White Rose Knights, are Rosaria Kingdom’s legitimate chivalric order. Doing something like repulsing that, I think that’s amazing.”

“I, myself consider it amazing.”

I spoke jokingly.

Honestly, I didn’t think that things would go well to that extent.

Everything’s thanks to my previous existence’s knowledge, but even so it’s on the level of going too well.

Often in novels and such there are stories of using past life’s knowledge and becoming peerless, but that was actually real, like that even I’m astonished.

However, even so it's not like everything went well.

As if to confirm I ask Sati.

"While we were in the middle of fighting outside the fortress, is it true that a part of the enemy soldiers invaded inside the walls?"

Sati answered.

"Yes. But, the Maou army people immediately drove them back."

She stated the truth.

Just like the report I heard from my subordinates.

But then it's not like I was doubting Sati or something, I simply wanted to confirm once again.

In reality though yesterday's battle was a complete victory, there was a single problem.

Just as Sati said, during the fight enemies invaded inside the walls.

Of course, the gate wasn't destroyed, and the ramparts weren't scaled either.

The human soldiers suddenly appeared inside the town.

At first, I thought there might be a problem in the,

"Anti-Transition Magic"

that I ordered my subordinates to establish, but, apparently that's also wrong.

This morning, they frantically investigated, but the report I received from Jiron was,

"There's no problem at all"

like that.

Which means, the remaining possibility is, using a secret path enemy soldiers invaded, is what it comes to.

"A secret path? Is that kind of thing in this Ivalice?"

"Not just Ivalice. There's one in Arsenum too, it's in anyplace. Not just in

human cities, there's one in the demon's castle as well see."

"Why would you make that kind of thing? If the enemy were to know of it, then it would be terrible wouldn't it?"

"Because they're thinking of losing isn't it."

"Losing, is it?"

"That's right, it's self-protection, self protection. Supposing they lose to the enemy, influential people's way of thinking is to make hidden escape routes so that at least they can somehow get away when their castle is surrounded by the enemy."

So that means, this time, the path the enemies used is the path the previous lord, Edward-sama created, is that correct?"

Like I thought she's a considerably sharp girl, it seems she easily reached the same conclusion as Jiron.

However, unfortunately that answer was a miss.

"Jiron also said something similar, and put the screw on Edward, so raged but, that was wrong. In the first place, I'm not that foolish. Something like the previous lord's created escape route was the very first thing I crushed."

The previous lord Edward was a timid man. Even without putting the screws on him, he informed us of all of this town's secrets in great detail.

That's why there's no chance that man guided them.

"If so, just how, by what means did the enemy soldiers invade the city?"

Sati, "Uun" crossed her arms and began to think.

Frowning, her way of earnestly thinking is adorable.

I wanted to watch her for a while like this, but since it was pitiable I stop, and decide to tell her the answer.

"The way they used to come in is the newly created escape route that I made. What's more, it only just been very recently completed."

"You made that sort of thing?"

"Yea. I'm also scared of losing."

Saying so was half serious, half joke.

For the moment I've been entrusted with being the lord of this city, but I won't necessarily be ruling forevermore.

In the future some other brigade's leader might rule, to begin with I might lose the next battle.

For the time being I've avoided defeat, but it's not certain that it'll always be like that from now on as well.

I'm not so conceited to think that I'm that strong, I'm not deluded to think that I could continue to win for eternity.

If humans made a serious effort and made countermeasures, then I think sooner or later I will experience losing.

At that time, I will without worrying what others think run away. In the first place different from highly proud nobles, my previous existence was an extremely usual ordinary person.

I'm not an idiot to the extent that I would throw my life away in exchange for something like pride.

In addition, every great commander has said the same remarks. "The person who knows when to quit is exactly the qualification of a great commander!" like that——.

I'm of the exact same opinion.

"——However, making an escape route is fine, but having that immediately used by the enemy is."

"Did the residents inform them?"

"No, that's not it."

I declared as such.

"As expected I'm not that foolish either. I conducted the construction of the escape route with only demons."

"In that case there's no worry about leaks right."

Like that Sati was relieved, but I leaked, "Now then, I wonder about that."

Such that she wouldn't hear.

For Sati, the Maou army may seem to be an organization that's constantly friendly.

Fortunately among my Undead Brigade there is no dissonance, but if you were to look at the entirety of demons I wonder. I've said it before, but the Maou army by nature is not a monolith.

The current Maou,

"Dairokuten-sama."

until she sat on that seat, a bloody internal quarrel unfolded.

"Goshujin-sama, that appearance is.....?"

"N.....? That appearance.....?"

When I look down at my own arms, I ascertained the reason she was surprised.

My arms were getting close to semi-transparent.

".....good grief, again huh."

I unintentionally uttered as such.

Apparently, it's "Once again" the Corps commander's summons.

That person, that people are in the bath, or going to the bathroom, she surely doesn't have that way of thinking.

"Well, because she doesn't is why I'm being called casually like this....."

Muttering, I leaked a monologue, and to Sati,

"I'm going to meet my boss."

So I revealed.

She probably didn't understand the meaning.

While making a bewildered expression, she hastily lowered her head.

"A-ano, please convey to her that this Sati says best regards. Also eeto, some kind of present..... I-I'll bake cookies right now——."

I couldn't listen to her natural air headed remarks until the end.

Before that my body became completely transparent.

The surrounding scenery distorts, something like a space time distortion can be seen.

Now then, where will I be called to this time.

While thinking that, I decided to enjoy the fantasy like scenery.

Chapter 16: Sefiro's Bathing

I who was called by my respected boss spoke while sighing.

"Mou, corps commander, there's a possibility of bath or toilet time, so please don't suddenly call me, I've told you so much haven't I——."

That my words stopped is proof that I'm pure.

The one in the bath wasn't me, it was the corps commander.

She currently soaking half her body in the bathtub.

Fortunately, or unfortunately, due to the vapor I couldn't see her private parts, but without seeming to care,

"With that brush there won't you wash my back?"

like that asked me.

".....ask a familiar for that kind of stuff."

If you're a commander class magician, then you should be able to employ any number of them simultaneously.

"Idiot, relying on magic for anything and everything is evidence of a second rate magician."

"Then is summoning your disciple and entrusting them that kind of odd job evidence of a first rate?"

"No——"

Maou army 7th army corps corps commander, the Witch of Black Calamity Sefiro shakes her head.

"Proof of an elite."

She declared as such,

"KaKaKa."

and laughed.

"Won't you wash my back quickly, if you don't I'll send you off to the isolation cell."

She threatened me so.

Since it couldn't be helped, while averting my eyes, I washed her back with the brush.

"What are you embarrassed about, we've gone into the bath together when you were a child right."

".....that's from when I was a child."

"From my point of view, you're still a child though."

"Commander has been living since the last, last, last Maou after all."

"....."

Even though I was facing her back, there was a pause where it seemed I could hear the sound of her "Glaring" at me.

As expected, no matter the world it seems it's a taboo to ask a woman about age.

From her back, I felt a killing intent as if to say, even if it's you if you touch on that any more than this, I'll kill you.

I, who had the ability to sense danger, in a panic shifted the topic.

"Nevertheless, your skin luster is as beautiful as ever, almost like a teenage young woman."

It seems that if you compliment them then they'll soon improve their mood is also common no matter the world.

She,

"That's right, that's right."

like that with being in a good mood, she suddenly stood up,

"Rinse my back!"

and ordered me.

While I once again averted my eyes when I abided by that, I handed her a towel. On top of being a considerably small towel, since she a voluptuous body, it was to the extent that it just barely covered her private parts. Since she's a

corps commander, I wanted to tell her to use a better towel, but mostly likely she's doing it on purpose.

Enjoying my reaction like this, that is her aim.

As such, making my face beneath the mask flush, and being embarrassed is exactly her trap, but I've splendidly fallen for that.

Even if I say so myself I'm pitiable, but even if I regret it can't be helped, so I decided to get down to business.

"——Incidentally commander, I have some information I wish to share you with."

"What is it? Did you pilfer some of my underwear?"

"I'm being serious. In addition it's urgent business."

When I said that in a serious tone of voice, she canceled her joking mood.

"What is it, speak."

and bore a serious look.

No, since it was from behind I couldn't see, so guessed but.

"Yes. Actually it seems there's a betrayer among our brigade."

"Betrayer?"

"Yes."

"Your basis?"

"In the case of the Ivalice defensive battle the other day, from the escape route that I informed only the demons of, enemy soldiers invaded."

"Hou, you did well to cope with that."

"Well, it's impossible for a large army to pass through the escape route after all. It was an unexpected event, but I wouldn't lose with that amount."

"Hou, that's some adult talk I'm hearing."

"Thanks to the tactics I was taught by corps commander."

"Even if you flatter me, you'll get nothing you know."

When Sefiro finished, continuing on I spoke.

“However, capturing from the inside was beyond expectations. If I hadn’t left a kobold unit, then it might have been dangerous.”

“Fumu, I see, in summary though being attacked from within was unexpected, since the battle outside the fortress was a complete victory, you managed to avoid further problems, is what you mean, huh.”

“Well, if you summarize it that’s right.”

“Supposing you had had a hard fight with the White Rose Knights, then worst case, the residents would have been incited by the infiltrating unit and you might have lost, is it?”

“.....worst case scenario.”

“Fumu, that’s a serious problem isn’t it. And, the one who informed them about the escape route is within the Undead Brigade?”

“I fear that it’s likely.”

“What, you don’t a basis? If you don’t your allies without basis, then you’ll cause internal discord. If so that’s the enemy’s intent.”

“No, I have a basis.”

So I declared.

“Hou, what kind.”

I explained the details.

Sefiro who heard that,
fumu, I see, slightly nodding her head agreed.

“En route of the escape route you installed magic power driven detectors, is it.”

“That’s right. The ones commander made and gave to me.”

“Ooh, that. With that it can’t be easily released if it’s human. No, it’s even possible to detect them.”

“When I examined them after, that device was splendidly released.”

“I see, in that case, there’s no possibility that the secret construction was

exposed to the residents, is it.”

“It’s also fine to exclude the possibility that the enemy discovered the escape route by chance.”

“So, you suspected the existence of an internal betrayer. I see, a rational judgment.”

“.....though I don’t really want to doubt our allies.”

“What are you being optimistic about. That demons aren’t a group that close friends at least even you’re aware of right.”

“Humans as well though.”

“Exactly, historically, there’s no such organization that didn’t break up after all.”

“Though if possible I wanted at least our brigade to be that exception.....”

“There aren’t the likes of exceptions in this world.”

Sefiro declared.

Well, I agree.

Even in my former world, such matter’s circumstances were the same.

Something like a monolith organization didn’t exist.

Much less demons who since their birth, continued mutual conflict, and fought for hegemony.

There’s no way for all demons to unite.

“However, the problem is, who, and for what reason did they betray, correct.”

“The reason is obvious right. In order to cause my brigade to lose.”

“Quite so. However, there should be a reason to make you lose.”

“Well, there’s any number of army corps that that are jealous of our army corps after all. As such the other 6 army corps’ commanders, all of them become suspects. In general, if they want sabotage the 7th army corps, then they would have slipped in a spy into my brigade right.”

When I expressed my own thinking, my boss Sefiro, “KuKuKu”, laughed.

“.....what is so amusing? Commander. I, did I say something so off base?”

“No, that you decided that traitor is another army corps’ spy is just like you, is what I thought.”

“.....as much as possible I don’t want to doubt our colleagues.”

“Still, don’t abandon thinking until the end. You’re grandfather always said that correct. That the person who doesn’t stop thinking until the end will become the eventual winner.”

“However, even if I say so myself, I don’t remember doing something to be resented for to my subordinates, and I should be doing relatively well with the 7th army corps’ other brigade commanders.”

“That’s it. You seem sharp, and are occasionally foolish.”

Sefiro declared as such and continued.

“Certainly our 7th army corps when compared to other army corps, relatively has esprit de corps. There are few fellows that would sabotage other brigades. Since I educated them in such in a way.”

As if to say however, she thrusts her finger at me and points out.

“There’s something called a limit to things. What are your recent conspicuous services. Just how many armies did you destroy, how many human forts did you fell? What’s more your allies’ injury is minimal, the enemies as well skillfully without hardly killing them.”

“Haa.....”

Since I didn’t understand what she was saying, I unconsciously gave an idiotic response.

Surely because she saw that kind of appearance of mine, Sefiro, “Good grief”, while leaking a long sigh spoke.

“You’re really an idiot huh. The point is that you should take into account at least the possibility that the other brigade commanders are envious. Is what I’m saying.”

“Am I in a position to be envied by the other brigade commanders?”

When I asked so, she pointed at the map of this continent placed on top of the desk.

Next, nimbly moved her lips.

It seems she’s chanting some kind of magic.

When she finished chanting magic, the map shone.

“This is?”

That I didn’t need to ask, I understand that significance.

1/3 of the east of this continent is painted red.

In other words, the region that the Maou Army is currently occupying.

Like proving that that consideration is correct, Sefiro,

“This is the current Maou army’s occupation zone. And——”

Continuing so, this time 1/7 of the red region began shining.

“This region is?”

Wasn’t necessary to ask. It was only familiar place names, forts, and city names.

“All of them are regions that you were involved with their capture. Just a single army corps’ single brigade commander is connected with capturing this much area, you’re carrying the main force. What’s more, a youngster that only just recently became a brigade commander.”

“.....I see.”

Certainly it’s as commander said.

After becoming brigade commander, I don’t particularly have a recollection of having fought with the other brigade commanders, but certainly when it comes to the other brigade commanders’ feelings, they might become jealous.

Sighing like that, I recalled the other brigade commanders’ faces.

Now then, you was it that tried to trap me I wonder?

The troll holding the nickname, the demolishing war demon, is it.

Or else, the dragonkin race brigade commander is it.

The 7th Army Corps has, if you include me, 10 brigade commanders.

The suspects are 9 people, is what it comes to but——.

While being careful in order to not hold preconceived notions as much as possible, I began the selection of traitor candidates.

Chapter 17: The Duel with the Underdog!

7th Army Corps Commander Sefiro's headquarters, Barencelle is in the controlled territory of the Maou army, and is where the main force of the 7th army corps is staying.

Also it's being used as a place to stay temporarily for brigade commanders without territory, as a result of coming to report to the army corps commander Sefiro, I've often come across the other brigade commanders before.

I was careful so as not to stay in this castle as much as possible.

Demons are, essentially persistent about hierarchical relationships, or perhaps I should say they don't judge with anything other than whether they're above or below themselves.

According only to that true strength and achievements, they judge the other party.

Recently, I have been raising brilliant achievements, but I have a characteristic of being underestimated on the true strength side.

The reasons being that I occupy towns without really killing the enemy soldiers, that it still hasn't been long since I was promoted to brigade commander, or such is what is brought up, but, is it a habit of my previous life, that I can't really treat others with a self-important attitude might be the origin.

Therefore, when I happen to meet brigade commanders who are strong, or who have low intelligence for instance, it's inevitable that it becomes a dispute.

That's why I quickly went to the transition space, wanting to return to my own territory, but because I happen to meet people I don't want to meet at times like this, I have bad luck.

At the corridor that connects to the transition space I came across the werewolf brigade commander Beio.

Even within the 7th Army Corps' brigade commanders, he's a bellicose man. So as not to quarrel I draw close to the edge of the corridor and give way to Beio.

However, purposely changes his movements, and strikes my shoulder.
And then appends a third rate drama like false accusation.

“Oi, that hurt, what are you crashing into other people’s shoulders for.”

No, I standing still right.

You have a really easy to understand nature huh.

If it was like always, I would docilely apologize, but today the situation is different.

Here I should probably take up the challenge.

The commander was also saying that.

“As far as humans are concerned humility may be a virtue, but for demons it will conversely become a target of disdain. Before you know it that might become a weak point.”

Or such——.

In addition, it might be a chance to bring to light the traitor.

It’s not bad to behave like a demon once in a while either, so, I decided to say to Beio.

“I gave way to you and stood still right. You’re the one who crashed into me.”

Beio probably thought I wouldn’t refute.

“What did you say!”

Like that his entire body’s fur stood on end.

“You’re the one who should apologize. My valuable robe got some of your dirty fur on it didn’t it.”

Dear me, like that I brush off the fur.

Beio who heard that breathed even harder.

“You say this great me’s silver fur is dirty. The likes of this undead!”

Alright, just as planned.

If I get him this angry, then Beio will take action according to my imagination.

In reality, Beio points at me,

“I challenge you to a duel!”

and declared so.

It's come to this huh, like that I grinned within my mind.
Duels between demons are constantly occurring.

Even humans, fellow noble are constantly doing it, so it's not strange, but it's different from humans, there's no style in duels with demons.

Like how the instant human nobles throw a glove it begins, or the moment when they each cross swords becomes a sign, there's none of that.

Starting with no introductory remarks, that's the demon's style.

The werewolf Beio,

“Waoon!”

Like that he raises a war cry enough to vibrate even my spine.

If it was an ordinary human, then just with that they would have been unable to stand, they would have fallen on their backside.

There is magic power loaded into the werewolf's howl.
They might have lost consciousness just like that.

However, fortunately I wasn't an [Ordinary] human.
Since I was young I've lived together with demons, I also carry mighty magic power.

With something of that level of showing off, I don't mind it at all.

I put magic power into the Ouroboros cane I inherited from my Jii-chan.

Even if just in name, this man is a brigade commander.
There should be no need to hold back or such.
However, there's also no need to kill him.

He's quick to fight, but even then I haven't my human heart enough to kill my comrades with just the reason of being displeased with them.

I aim 《Fire Ball》 magic at Beio and shoot.

The werewolf's movement are quick.

If it were the usual, then something like 《Fire Ball》 would be avoided with no problem whatsoever.

However, my fire ball magic is different.

Just now, the shot 《Fire Ball》 is a specially customized original one.

With the magic taught by the commander, in exchange for lowering the power it's speed is reinforced accordingly.

To the 《Fire Ball》

that flew with speed almost like an arrow, Beio wore a surprised expression.

“Shit, using crafty magic.”

At first I'm sure he planned to avoid it, but he changed course and decided to stop it head-on.

Beio stands still, “Something like this youngster's magic, I'll pulverize it from head on” like that he caught the fire ball with both hands and crushed it.

“——hou.”

I couldn't help but to feel admiration unconsciously.

Although the magic power is lowered, I didn't think he could do that kind of stunt.

As expected of a brigade commander.

As I thought I shouldn't have made light of him.

Nevertheless, even though Beio crushed 《Fire Ball》, it seems he concentrated all his power.

I didn't overlook that chance.

I endowed magic power into the cane, and aimed that at the top of Beio's head and swung down.

If an ordinary human were to receive that blow, their skull would crack, and they wouldn't escape death, but as expected of the werewolf brigade commander considered to be superior even among the demons, though he let out a scream, “Guaa!”, even then it seemed he kept his consciousness.

“Alright, now, shall I deliver the final blow?”

If it were an ordinary demon, then they would think that, but as I thought I'm human, if the match is decided, then I will be hesitant for any further acts of

abuse.

That's my weak point that the commander speaks of I'm sure.

".....shi-shit, not yet, it's not over yet."

As I thought Beio saw that softness and stood up.

As expected his step is distorted, though that prided silver fur is dyed in blood, I sensed that he still had plenty of motivation.

(Good grief, why are these demons sore losers like this I wonder.....)

Within my mind I leaked a sigh, and began a spell's aria.

This time for sure I'll use a powerful magic to shave off his fighting strength——,

is what I planned, but I didn't finish that spell's aria.

Since a certain personage forced their way between the two of us.

She forced her way in between me and Beio in an instant and,

"Both of you that's enough!"

Like that she stuck out both hands and with 《Bind》 magic restrained Beio.

It is not someone who possesses magic power able to instantly restrain a combat ready powerful person of brigade commander class or such.

The superior of us two, Sefiro, scolds us with a rare, serious expression.

"Though duels of comrade demons aren't forbidden. As expected if you were to do it in the corridor of my castle, it would be intolerable."

In addition, she continues.

"The victor of this bout is already decided. Beio, were you such a foolish demon that didn't understand the opponents capability? Since even among the low intellect werewolves you were remarkably strong, and particularly intelligent is the reason I selected you as brigade commander, but were my eyes knot holes?"

Beio who heard those words at last seems regain his reason.

".....I have no excuse."

Then he hung his head.

That mad dog like Beio was similar to a pet dog in front of this person.
That's telling of this person's, of Sefiro's true strength.

Sefiro ascertained that Beio understood and,

"Umu, I like your honesty. Well then this match, it's fine with it being Ike's win right?"

So she declares.

Immediately Beio,
".....yes."
consented like that.

Sefiro who was satisfied with that answer,

"In the world of demons, ability is everything. Don't leave any grudges ok."

So she says, and began casting recovery magic on Beio.

Beio's body shone a bluish-white, and his wounds closed before one's eyes.

If you exclude that he's dirtied with blood, one might be able to say that he's just like before.

When the wounds were completely healed Beio,
"Commander, I'm very sorry."
and lowered his head.

Sefiro said,

"Umu, it's fine already. You should have your own work as well. Quickly return to your post and do a meritorious deed."

and excused him.

Beio went to abide by the order, but the moment he passed by me he lightly lowered his head.

Apparently he seemed to have admitted my ability as well.

However,
"It won't go like this next time!"

he left behind those parting remarks.

Well, in a certain meaning he has an easy to understand character.

“I’ll turn the table any number of times.”

I replied according to template as well, and saw off Beio’s return.

At the same time that Beio entered the transition space, I asked Sefiro the commander.

“Now then, commander, could you get some information from that Beio?”

Hearing that remark Sefiro,

“Well. What do you mean?”

and pretend to be the fool.

“If it were the usual commander, you would only say, you reap what you sow, and apply some spit right. And yet this time you cast recovery magic didn’t you? What’s more, thoroughly. You would think you have some ulterior motive right, usually.”

“Fumu, you noticed huh. As expected of Ronberg’s grandson.”

She said so, and revealed her trick.

“To cast 《Memory Decryption》

magic you know that you can only aim at the moment when the other party has completely let down their guard right.”

“Ehh, for someone with no magic power there’s no need for that labor, but tentatively the other party is a demon after all. So readily....., ah, I see, in other words that’s what you mean.”

“Exactly, if it’s during when he’s receiving recovery magic, then he’ll completely let his guard down.”

“.....you’re a vicious person huh. By any chance, did you aim at the possibility that me and that guy would bump heads and call us out, or such?”

“Now then. I wonder about that.”

Sefiro, without affirming it or denying it, “KaKaKa” leaks her usual laugh.

“.....and, were you able to gain beneficial information from that guy’s

memory?”

“Fumu, I gained some considerably useful information.”

“No way, is that guy the traitor or something?”

“No, that guy is wild and simple minded, but he’s a man that hates those acts. It’s fine if you see him as innocent.”

“Is that so. Well, he’s that kind of guy. He seems unrelated to schemes.”

“However, I was able to have an idea of a person who tempted him to be a “traitor”. He himself didn’t seem to understand that that was an invitation to betrayal, but there is a brigade commander that tried pull him in as a comrade.”

“Ohh, as expected of commander.”

I gave her compliments, and asked the name of that person, but the commander shook her head.

“No, I have a target , but I still don’t have conviction. It’s too soon to bring up that person’s name lightly.”

I want certain proof, is how Sefiro closed.

And then, glance, looked this way.

In other words, she wants to tell me to go seize that proof. I’ve said it before, but for demons superior’s orders are absolute.

Also this time, my brigade, no, it’s an army corps scale problem. Even without being ordered, I planned to search for the traitor.

Chapter 18: Enemy Territory Infiltration with Lilith

When I returned to my own territory the city of Ivalice, I called the orc staff officer Jiron.

The small man orc Jiron excitedly comes along.

When he arrived at my office he asked, “What do you require?” and rubbed his hands.

“It’s about the case of the White Rose Knights the other day but——”

I begin speaking.

Summarized, right now, what is the commander of those White Rose Knights doing, is what I wanted to know.

“Now then, I wonder. Though we confirmed the figure of them surviving and escaping, they were completely defeated after all. Perhaps they might have been punished and incarcerated.”

“I see, it’s possible huh.”

I leaked that, and ordered Jiron to investigate what that person was doing right now.

Jiron, “Yes” consented and,
“Is it urgent?”
continued so.

“Extremely urgent. Prioritize it ahead of anything else. Money, personnel, it’s fine not to be stingy.”

Jiron seemed to notice the seriousness of the matter with my serious voice. Even more than when he came, he went outside of the office in a jog.

Now then, with this the reliable [Proof] that is the White Rose Knights’ commander’s whereabouts seemed to be graspable, but the problem is whether it’s place where it’s easy to [Secure] them.

If the previous day’s defeat is forgiven, and they’re sent to another war front, then far from securing them, even grasping their whereabouts will become

difficult.

If possible I would be most grateful that they took the blame for the defeat, and be confined to at their home, or be imprisoned somewhere but——.

Several days later, due to Jiron, the White Rose Knights' commander, we understood Alistair's location.

"The White Rose Knights Commander Alistair seems to be, currently, imprisoned in a jail in the outskirts of the royal capital."

"A prison huh, this is also harsh, the opponent as well."

Did they take the blame for the defeat I wonder?
I ask for the particulars.

"No, it seems they didn't it's not the case that they took the blame. If it's that, then most of the knights that participated in the other day's offensive reversal took the blame I assume."

"I see, there's another reason huh."

"Yes, I understand, that they reported to the king that they should send the whole army to this Ivalice. Repeatedly in front of the imperial council, persistently. Then it seems they incited the king's anger, and it resulted in their incarceration."

"The whole army to this Ivalice? Were they that frustrated at having lost to me I wonder."

"Otherwise that if they didn't crush our brigade in advance it would become terrible, is what they might have thought."

So Jiron said jokingly and laughs.

Well, I don't understand the particulars, but either way, that they were incarcerated seems to be certain.

In a certain meaning, for this side it was a grateful state of affairs.

I called out to a particularly capable subordinate in the brigade, the succubus Lilith, and together with her headed towards the location where the White Rose Knights' commander is incarcerated.

“Ike-sama, it’s just us two right.”

Those were the first words of Lilith when left the city of Ivalice.

“I’m a bit tired.”

She suddenly said so,

“Perfectly, there’s a forest over there, so shall we rest? About an hour. No, if Ike-sama wishes, then it’s possible to stick together for even an entire day even two days.”

Like that she pulls my arm towards her.

I “Glare” overlooking Lilith through the mask.

Lilith leaks, “Che”, and gives up.

“But, Ike-sama, we’re going to extricate the enemy’s commanding officer that’s incarcerated in the tower right? Will we be fine with just the two of us? Ah, no, as long as there’s Ike-sama, then even ten thousand troops aren’t enough to be afraid though.”

“As one would expect, even for me ten thousand would be harsh.”

“Then, one thousand.”

“Even then it’s impossible.”

“Then, one hundred.”

“In that case depending on the conditions it might be possible to do something.”

It might be overestimating, but if it’s average soldiers then I have confidence that I can be an opponent for about that many at the same time.

“Then, it seems like will be able to somehow manage this times task as well right.”

Like that Lilith was relieved.

“Instead, rather than moving a large army it’s good that we don’t have to be guarded.”

I assert.

The White Rose Knights' commander Alistair is incarcerated in a tower in the outskirts of the royal capital Leazas. It's not a place where prisoners are incarcerated, it's a tower exclusive for nobles.

Since they're nobles there's no worry about them escaping, and they shouldn't expect something like being attacked.

It's likely but it shouldn't be a problem even if we consider the security to be minimum.

If it's as I imagine, 10 sentinel, and there may or may not be 10 humans to care for the nobles, or some such.

Since they shouldn't be assuming something like being attacked, I alone am more than enough war potential.

Honestly, I'm nimble, enough so that I wanted to proceed unaided, but even like this, tentatively I'm the brigade's commanding officer. I have to be prepared for the worst case.

"Ah, Ike-sama, the tower's come into view."

Lilith seemed to have discovered the tower.
As expected of a demon, is what I should say.
For the human me it's still not visible.

However, since it'd be troublesome to be suspected, I use

Hawk • Eye
《Distant View》 magic, and confirm.

Certainly the tower is visible.

A dreary tower be it may, tentatively, it's a tower where offenders are imprisoned. There should be no need to make its appearance gaudy.

"The number of sentinel, in front of the gate are 2, is it....."

I leaked a mutter.

"Shall we quickly do them in? With that state of affairs, the likes of the soldier's numbers don't amount to much."

Lilith wanted to settle it in a typical demon like manner.
I held that back.

“Showing blood isn’t everything.”

“However, holding back is more difficult. If we slaughter 2~3 people, then the remaining will feel frightened and run away won’t they?”

“.....”

I answer with silence.

Since Lilith’s proposal was, even as a demon even as a human commander, a correct way of thinking.

What was hindering me here is my previous life’s memory.

If bloodshed can be avoided then I want to avoid it, is what my true opinion was.

“.....no, occasionally settling everything without shedding blood is fun as well. It’ll also become practice when infiltrating into enemy territory, and extracting information out of someone.

Listen, as much as possible, do not kill the humans, is what I emphasize, and I cast

Invisible

《Transparentification》 magic on Lilith and myself.

For a while this magic makes the practitioner transparent.

However, since it has no effect on possessors of powerful magic power, if you make large movements it’ll be canceled.

Just, I don’t think those gatekeepers over there are magicians, and I don’t think they’re strong enemies to the degree that two blows are needed.

Without problems, the gatekeepers should be able to be defeated. The problem is the soldiers packed inside but.....

I leak a sigh.

For the time being I ordered to hold back, but the Lilin beside me isn’t dexterous enough to abide by that order after all.

As for this no matter how well we do casualties will appear right. While thinking that we headed towards the tower.

Chapter 19: Alistair's Identity

I snuck up behind the gatekeepers and dealt them sword hand to their necks.

It's a common scene in movies and manga, but if you put in magic power, then it's easy to make an opponent faint.

——conversely, even if it's not particularly a hand sword, it would be fine but.

On the other hand, the succubus Lilith was splendidly hitting their heads hard.

The gatekeepers foam, and collapse.
They are pitiable.

Though I did sympathize, I had no time to care for them.

Afterwards if there's leeway I can at least cast recovery magic, but right now, what's necessary was the White Rose Knights' commander Alistair themselves.

We left the gates open and entered within the tower.

The tower's first floor, as I thought that became the sentinel's station.

A number of tables and chairs were set up, there the sentinel were chatting.

As one would expect their on duty, there wasn't a human drinking sake, but there were one's amusing themselves with cards games or laying on a table and sleeping.

In other words there was absolutely no feeling of tension.

"Well, that's natural right....."

I let out a mutter.

The ones incarcerated here are nobles.

As long as nothing unusual happens, there's no concern of escaping from within, and there's also no worry about being attacked from outside.

Rather maintaining their feeling of tension is an impossible discussion.
To say nothing of something like a [Demon]'s attack, I'm sure they didn't even expect it.

Despite reaching this point and seeing our figures, they were starrng in puzzlement.

Incidentally I'm a strange looking skeleton masked magician.
Lilith is a tanned skin Lilin succubus.

Whichever way you look at us, we're demons, but the soldiers,
"D-demonss!!"

required several seconds to raise a shout.

Faster than that shout went up, I finished a spell's aria.

《Deep Hypnosis》

This magic, though it requires a little time to chant, it's a hypnotism magic that has an effect over a wide range. In the case of humans with no magic power, then they'll no doubt fall asleep without being able to even resist.

In reality, except for the humans that had been sleeping from the start, they all crumbled down on the spot.

Why I smiled a bit was surely that the ones that had been dozing awoke with the sounds of the falling humans I guess.

"Fumu, it appears that that this magic has no effect on those already sleeping, huh."

It became a good sample.

When I muttered that, I dealt a hand sword to the just risen soldiers.

"Foolish soldiers aren't they. If they had just pretended to sleep, then they wouldn't have had to get hurt."

As Lilith says so, she turns towards here, and "Kusukusu" laughs.

"What's funny?"

I ask her.

Lilith further relaxes her cheeks and replies.

"I mean, Ike-sama, although you told me to hold back you didn't hold back at all."

“.....”

I reply by means of silence.

“.....even like this I planned to hold back though.”

If seen from the side, my holding back seems to be seen as outrageous power. Apparently I don't have the qualifications to find fault with others either.

——from now on let's take care.

Setting that aside we have to secure Alistair.

Forcibly waking one of the sleeping soldiers, when I put the screws on them, I got info on the place where the White Rose Knights' commander, Alistair, is being confined.

He was apparently being confined at the top floor.

“It seems the White Rose Knights' Commander-sama is a VIP, huh.”

“Even among nobles they're rank is high I assume.”

Whether in another world or modern day, it seems as rich as they are that they prefer high places is the same.

“Now then, we grasped the location as well, is it fine even if I quickly kill this guy?”

Lilith asked me.

“Oi, Lilith, to not spill blood pointlessly, I told you that much.....”

“Mou, I'm kidding. A stylish demon joke. If I threaten them like this then perhaps they'll hand over the top floor's key, is what I was thinking is all. Wait, are? This guy, they fainted right?”

When I looked, the pitiable soldier was unconscious.

Should we splash water on them and wake them, is what Lilith proposed, but I shook my head.

Since I thought it useless.

When I ascended to the top floor, I walked until before the room where Alistair was likely confined.

Sure enough, although that room was locked, it wasn't a significant lock.

To the extent that if it were a demon then they could kick it in with sheer strength, even humans if it was someone with skillful fingers, then they would be able to easily unlock it.

“Well, even without doing those kinds of things, it'll be over with
《Unlock》 magic.

As if making good on my word, I chant magic.

Clank——,

together with that sound, the door opens.

When I entered the room, I respectfully bowed my head.

I'm a demon, the other party a human, there's no need to show every courtesy, but if just with paying respect human relations will proceed smoothly, then there's nothing as cheap as this.

When I raised my head, I send my gaze to the personage I believe to be the White Rose Knights' commander.

“.....”

——wait are?

At that place there wasn't the knight order's commander.

In exchange in that place was Alistair's maid I assume.

A just a little over 20 year old blonde woman was there.

Her hair was tidily put together, and she was wearing negligee.

Possibly a lover that the personage Alistair brought along or a sweetheart, are the possibilities I considered.

While being confined, he's energetic, slight sarcasm came to mind, but she brought out a short sword from the chest placed beside the bed, and thrust that this way.

“Insolent fellow! Is this a violence knowing that I'm the White Rose Knights commander, Alistair

▪ Rottenmeier!”

“.....”

With those words, I noticed that the White Rose Knights’ commander was a woman.

“.....good grief.”

A sign didn’t come out either.

At the Maou-sama’s time as well I bore a similar impression, but apparently I might have ill fortune concerning woman.

—

naturally, different from the time with Maou-sama, there’s not a single reason to fear this woman but.

I remade my expression within the mask, lower my head once more and spoke as such.

“For the sudden visit, please excuse me. White Rose Knights Commander, Alistair

▪

Rottenmeier-dono. I am, Maou Army 7th Army Corps Undead Brigade brigade commander Ike.”

“Undead Brigade!?”

She who heard those words plainly changed her expression.
That’s natural.

Since having knocked down her own knight order plenty, the perpetrator that made her taste defeat appeared before her eyes, no doubt she immediately wants to stab that short sword into my heart.

However, as soon as she heard my words, her legs trembled.
The previous day’s battle’s dread might still be remaining.
No, or perhaps is she trembling with fear at this grotesque appearance.

However, even so without her voice trembling, that she demands as explanation can be summed up as expected of the knight order commander.

She's not filling the position of knight order commander that unsuited for woman for nothing.

"You bastards, are of the Maou Army!? Why, have you appeared in this kind of place! I won't say such things. The previous day's debt, right now, in this place I'll have you return it!"

As soon as she said that, packing in all her power, she came stabbing the short sword.

As expected she seems to know the handling method of weapons.

If she were able to stab that short sword in me, I wouldn't escape a fatal wound.

——if she were to stab me, that is.

She seems to be the knight order's commander, but that short sword doesn't seem to be a big deal.

Most likely her family are great nobles, or perhaps there's some kind of circumstance.

In any case, it seems at least that she wasn't chosen by her swordsmanship skills.

When I concentrate magic power on my palm I grip the short sword bare handed and break it.

Alistair who saw that,

"Na....."

showed a shocked expression.

Is it since her lost hope was cut off, she falls down on the spot and hangs her head.

A beauty stricken with despair, that scene was made an excellent picture. I wanted to watch that scene for short while, but unfortunately I didn't have that time.

There's also the possibility that someone went to the town to ask for reinforcement.

I wanted to pull out information from her as soon as possible.

(.....dear me.)

Uttering so within my mind, I decided to behave like a demon after a long time.

When I grabbed Alistair's jaw, I forcibly made her stand. Just like that as soon as I pushed her until the wall, I spoke with a low voice.

"The other day, the one who came to attack the town I look after was you, correct?"

She tried resisting, but immediately gave up.

In the first place she herself introduced herself as the White Rose Knights' commander, at this point she has no mind to play dumb or such I'm sure.

".....what about that, this damn monster!"

"Courageous young lady. I don't particularly mean to find fault with having come to attack."

After a short pause, "There's simply something I wish to confirm" I continued.

"That time, at the same time you guys came attacking, human soldiers appeared from the escape route I created. Who was it that taught you that escape route?"

"....."

She answered by means of silence.

That's natural I guess. I didn't think that this girl who seemed highly proud would confess so easily.

Lilith who waited beside me gave a proposal.

"Ike-sama, if we're torturing then leave it to this me. While breaking her fingers one by one, let's see a human's appearance of suffering in agony after a long time."

It was a tone that was undecided whether joking or serious, but if I gave permission then without any hesitation she'll surely perform it. This girl is that kind of girl.

I've said it numerous times, but my heart is exactly human.

I want to abstain from that kind of violent stuff.

That's why towards the wall next to the girl called Alistair,

Don!

I placed my hand.

The so called katedon thing.

However, it wasn't an ordinary one, it was demon style.

Together with the roaring sound, there was a hole bored out in the wall under her arm.

She who saw that, first,

".....hii."

grimaced.

However, even so that she didn't confess was something considerable.

Just, the instant she made a grimace, I didn't overlook that she concentrated her awareness that way.

《Mind Reading》

I chant that magic without delay.

Those who have this magic cast on them will have their own mind's interior exposed to the practitioner.

Forcibly.

However, that doesn't mean that everything within the mind is overheard. If one doesn't guide the conversation well, then they won't get out the information they want to hear.

I began the conversation with the assumption that she wouldn't speak out. First is a harmless question, testing her reaction.

"It seems like you've become the knight order's commander with that youth, but how did it become like that? Did you curry favor with a an influential person or something with that beautiful face?"

"....."

She furiously scowls.
Apparently that's wrong.
From the bottom of her heart, she's denying it.

"Then, riding on your parent's coat-tails?"

"....."

Apparently that's right.

"I see, the White Rose Knights' commander is traditionally filled by a count or higher noble's innocent young woman. In other words it's a mere decoration is what it means right."

Alistair who heard those words, ".....na" raised such a voice, it seems she's shaking at having had her mind read.

"——damn, strange magician! You're reading a person's thoughts are you!"

She seems to have recalled that I'm a high ranking magician.
She frantically attempts to put up resistance.

However, the more she resists, the more frantic she becomes, the more it's just as my expectations.

The more you think don't think, the other party's voice gets louder and is conveyed this way.

"Shall we get back to the subject. Is the one who taught you the escape route, someone from the demons? Or else a human?"

Her answer is, would my glorious White Rose Knights borrow the likes of demons' power! So it seemed.

Well, that's true huh.

No matter what kind of fool, I don't think they would go teach a plan to humans in demon form.
They would set up a proxy, or use transformation magic, either one I'm sure.
I changed the inquiry's method.

"On the occasion when you attacked, you should have received the escape route's map right? Are you holding that even now?"

“.....”

“Hou, it seems like you’re holding it even now right.”

“.....ku.”

Alistair warps her expression.

It seems like it’s unnecessary to use 《Mind Reading》 magic.

That expression is proof that the map remains even now.

However, it seems she’s really honest to a fault.

That line of sight goes towards the drawers of the chest placed at the bedside.

When I release Alistair, I walk to front of that chest, and open the chest drawers one by one.

That map was stored in the third drawer.

The important documents type, it seems all of them are stored there.

I don’t know if they will be of use, but I decided to get all of them.

Alistair watched over that silently and frustratingly so.

There’s also that I plainly displayed the difference in ability, but Lilith is waiting beside her. She there unable to move like a frog stared at by a snake.

When I finished collecting the map, I told Lilith to come this way.

“What is it? Are we going display our lovey-doveyness or something in front of the human?”

I completely ignore Lilith’s joke.

We’re returning. Since we’ve never come here even once we weren’t able to use transition magic, but returning is different. There’s no need to expressly return walking.

“That in itself would have been fun though.”

“I dislike walking.”

Despite having reincarnated as a magician, for what sad reason would I have to walk.

Lilith was disappointed but place her hand on my shoulder.

Now then, afterwards is just returning to Ivalice, but the problem was Alistair who was absentminded.

Completely defeated in the battlefield, because of that she was incarcerated, moreover she was threatened by that enemy general, and had even important documents snatched away.

Tentatively, I've picked up that broken short sword so that she would suicide, but should I say something to her.

——I should call out right.

From now on, there will won't be a possibility to meet with this girl I assume, but that's why if she dies I would be troubled.
My dreams will become bad.

Before transitioning I, carefully picking my words, address her back.

“.....un, what....., as that enemy I hate to say this, but don't brood over having lost very much. There isn't something like a general that will have 100 wins in a 100 battles after all. The vital point is the ending moment, it's fine if you're standing. It's fine if you win at the critical moment.”

Even in my previous world, there are plenty of men that beyond continuously losing, won at the critical moment and obtained the whole country.

In the case of Japan, a person called Oda Nobunaga lost considerably continuously, but won at every important point and obtained the country.

Other famous ones are, Records of the Three Kingdoms——, the previous generation's Han dynasty's Liu Bang was famous. He as well since losing as much as 72 times, with merely a single win took the whole country didn't he.

——

even if I explain as such, it won't pass for an otherworlder right.

Well, but, if it's someone who enters into battle, something like victory or defeat not just ability, they'll understand at least that luck is also related.

I repeated,

“Don't think about stupid things. Rather than die, make those feelings into a

source of encouragement and try to return a blow at me.”

Leaving such words behind, we transitioned.

I didn’t see if those words got through to Alistair, but after transition, Lilith floated a wry smile.

“Ike-sama is truly a kind person, huh. Almost like a human.”

She expressed such thoughts.

I have self-awareness, is what wanted to say to her, but that I could only reply with silence was due to my current position.

Chapter 20: Ike's Paddy Field Making

When we arrived at Ivalice, I sent all other documents I obtained to my superior Sefiro.

Tentatively, I took a copy of everything with 《Copying》
, but particularly the map, they were in a domain beyond me.

If I had to say, then my forte is attack magic, and I'm not good at that kind of detection magic.

From the just the little traces of magic power left on that map, I'm unable to infer the one who wrote that map.

Mad • Scientist

That kind of work is the field of the mad alchemist commander.

That's why I decided to devote myself to another work that I was assigned to.

When I called the maid Sati, a handed over a certain thing.

“What is it? This small white one.”

Sati was perplexed at the object she saw for the first time.

“Goshujin-sama, what is this?”

“This is something called rice.”

“.....rice is it?”

It seems it's not something she's heard of.

In this this world it isn't popular I guess.

That's obvious right, I as well until recently, until I went to the royal capital Leazas I didn't notice that existence. Until I found it in the corner of a shop of a certain merchant, I didn't such things like that rice is in this world.

“You remember that previously I spoke that I would double the revenue of this town right.”

“Yes, such things as that you would test four crop rotation method.”

“Ahh, behind the scenes magic was used and the experiment was quickly

done, but this world's soil and climate seem to be compatible with four crop rotation method."

"In that case, we'll be able to eat turnip everyday right!"

Sati was innocently delighted like a child.

"Well, everyday is impossible, but you should be able to eat it enough to get tired of."

"In which case, the revenue doubling work is a success correct."

"The general aim is I guess. Agriculture takes time, so it's not like results will come out immediately next year though."

"In that case, Commander-sama will no doubt be pleased right."

"Yea, though I haven't reported yet."

"Eh? Why is that?"

"No, if I easily accomplish it, then that person will force an even more unreasonable demand on me after all. By piling hardship on top of hardships, I somehow succeedd, it's just right to a pathetic report on that level."

"I see, she's that kind of lady correct."

"Though she's not a bad person....., no, she's a scoundrel I guess. She's a witch that's lived for some hundred years, and she's spiteful."

".....is it fine? bad mouthing your superior."

"This room is endowed with 《Anti-Eavesdropping》

magic. And no matter what kind of despotism, subordinates have the right to bad mouth their superior."

—in a place where the superior isn't, that is.

Now then, even if I complain it's useless, so let's get down to business I guess.

"Getting back on topic, this is rice, that is, it's a unusual grain ordered from an island country in the south."

".....is it expensive?"

Sati timidly asks me.

“Reasonably so.”

I respond with only a few words.

The reason I don't frankly state the price is that if I say it, this girl will faint after all.

Besides from now on I'll have her cook this rice, being cooked with trembling hands is unbearable.

No matter how much of an expert cook she is, if she were to hear the price of that ingredient, there's no way she would be able to cook with a calm mind.

“.....it's reasonably high priced, but if I were to say that, then usually what I eat are also high class items.”

So I start off with.

Incidentally the value of rice in this world is about the same value as copper of the same mass.

It's a noble's luxury grocery item.

If we're able to mass produce this, then revenue will drastically go UP!

—is not how it'll become, I believe.

A luxury grocery item is a luxury grocery item, if it comes to appear on the market in large quantities, then the price will also droop appropriately.

However, even so there's added value as an unusual grain, and there's also an advantage in the crop called rice.

[Rice compared to wheat, productivity is many times more.]

The amount of rice taken from the same area is overwhelmingly more than wheat.

If I were to put things bluntly, if seen from the point of view of efficiency, then whether the modern world or other world, producing wheat is ludicrous.

For rice it's fine even if the fertilizer is little.

If everyone eats rice, then it'll be possible to support many times more people than now.

When I explained that to Sati, she stared in wonder.

“In other words, that means that it’ll be possible to eat meal many times more than until now right? Sati isn’t able to eat that much.”

Like that she says something off point.

For the uneducated Sati it might be too difficult.
Shall I try lowering the level and explaining.

“A Sati like way of thinking. However, that’s wrong. If many times more production is possible, then it’ll come to be that we’ll be able to provide for many times more people than now.”

“Does that mean the population will increase proportionally to that?”

“If you think about it simply. Well, in reality it won’t increase that much, there’s also no need to increase it. If it reaches the point that a large amount of people are able to be supported by small number of people, then people who don’t have to do farm work will appear right?”

“Haa, certainly, but not working, something like that is almost like nobles right.”

“It’s not like they’ll literally not work. The people involved in farm work will do other work is all. Becoming weapon craftsman, brick layers, among them there might be people who perform street shows to eat.”

“Even now there are those kinds of people though.....?”

“That will increase more, is what it means.”

Even if I use terms like primary industry, secondary industry, and tertiary industry, Sati won’t be able to understand.

“.....well, the farmers released from farm work will assume work manufacturing something, and then people who offer services to the people who assume those jobs will increase. For example, a cook, or a stage actor or actress, or an author, if so the region will naturally become affluent.”

“.....Sati doesn’t quite understand, but, that Goshujin-sama is working hard for the sake of the populace I’ve understood.”

After saying that she, “I’m unworthy, this Sati will support Goshujin-sama with all my might”, and rolled up her maid clothes’ sleeves.

“It’s a relief to hear that.”

I say that and ask Sati to cook the rice.

Though my previous knowledge is abundant, when it comes to cuisine I’m an amateur. Furthermore if it’s about cooking then I no longer know what’s fine to do.

Here, leaving everything to an expert is something reasonable.
Tentatively, there’s one thing remaining in my previous memories.

“When cooking rice, first simmer then blast, even if the baby cries don’t take off the lid, there’s that kind of proverb.”

I tell her those words in advance.

“.....hajimechrochronakapapaakagonaitemofutatoruna, is it.somehow it’s like a magic spell right.”

She bewilderingly repeated it.
It seems she didn’t understand it at all.

I might have told her something unnecessary.
While thinking that, I watched the retreating figure of Sati who began preparing the rice.

[<< Back TOC Next >>](#)